

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH



Inviting—Uniting—Igniting

720 Liberty Street
Clarion, Pennsylvania 16214

Mass Schedule

Saturday Evening - 4:00 p.m.

Sunday Morning - 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

Holy Days - 8:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

Weekdays - Consult the bulletin or phone the parish office

Church & School: 814-226-8433

Parish Staff

Rev. B. LaMounte Sayers
Pastor
montsayers@hotmail.com

Kim Kroh
Business Manager
KimKroh@comcast.net

Theresa McMillen
Parish Liturgical Coordinator
tmcmillen1@comcast.net

Teresa Frederick
Faith Formation Director
tdfrederick@comcast.net

Lori Cratty
Principal
lcratty@clarionichawks.net

Connie Eisenman
Office Coordinator
ceisenman@clarionichawks.net

Ann Enderle Liska
Director of Campus Ministry
ael726@hotmail.com

Catholic Rural Ministry
Sister Tina Geiger, RSM
Sister Marian Wehler, OSB
677-2032

Parish Membership

Membership includes active participation in the sacramental life of the Church, involvement in the activities of the faith community and financial support of the parish. New members are welcome to register by calling the parish office.



"No servant can serve two masters. He will either hate one and love the other, or be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and mammon." - Lk. 16:13

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

MAMMON is an ancient Aramaic word referring to money, wealth, or profit. Earthly wealth isn't bad in itself, nor does it automatically exclude us from being a disciple of Jesus. But what dominates our life? To serve money - that is, to seek accumulation of wealth for its own sake and to structure our lives around it - is morally problematic. What good is our wealth if it isn't at the service of others? What good is our wealth if its pursuit leads us to selfishness, obsession, greed, envy, and comparison? There are many things that can be opposed to our service of God - power, prestige, popularity. Ultimately, something in our lives will be our master. But there is only one God worth serving.

"Inviting ~ Uniting ~ Igniting" Program

Over the next few weeks, you will be hearing about the upcoming "Inviting ~ Uniting ~ Igniting" Program at Immaculate Conception Parish. This effort is very important as we move forward with the mission and vision of Immaculate Conception Parish. We, as a parish family, have changed so many lives in our community! In order to continue our mission and ministries, we encourage all parishioners to spend time in prayer and discussion with your family reflecting on the work we do. We look forward to seeing all of our parishioners at Mass, especially during our special Commitment Weekend on October 19 & October 20. If you have any questions regarding the "Inviting ~ Uniting ~ Igniting" Program, please feel free to contact the parish office.

GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

Compartmentalization or consistency? In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus tells a strange story of a sneaky, savvy steward that raises questions about our personal virtue. "How much do you owe? Here is your promissory note, write one for eighty." This parable isn't advice for money management. Historically, there were many positions that acted on behalf of their masters regarding money, like customs agents, household stewards, and tax collectors. Often these workers over-charged and skimmed off the top. Usurious practices like this were not in line with the traditional Jewish understanding of money lending, which strictly forbade them from taking interest or making a profit off of their own people. As the steward reduced the debt, he was likely writing out the amount he originally intended to take for himself. Before the steward can be commended, he needs to right the wrong done.

"The person who is trustworthy in very small matters is also trustworthy in great ones; and the person who is dishonest in very small matters is also dishonest in great ones." This parable contains an important self-check. We have a great many things we're responsible for that seem to have nothing to do with the kingdom of God. How do we interact in those spaces? Are we trustworthy in our dealings at work and at home? Are we honest and faithful to our commitments to family and friends? Are we honest with our money and prudent with how we spend our time?

Jesus calls his disciples to consistency. How often do we expect that we can be one person one place, yet shrug off that persona in a new situation? "No servant can serve two masters." This week, take stock of your life. All of your life. Are you living the Gospel values wherever you go? ©LPi



FOOD FOR FRIENDS — Our next day to serve the Food for Friends meal will be Wednesday, **September 25**. Volunteers should be at the First Presbyterian Church kitchen by 4:45. We'll need cookies to serve for dessert. Questions? contact dsarbin@verizon.net.

A MESSAGE FROM FATHER MONTY – Going Through the Motions

Jesus said, "The person who is trustworthy in very small matters is also trustworthy in great ones" (Luke 16:10). As summer ends and autumn begins, it is a good time to take stock. You might ask yourself, "Am I a trustworthy disciple, following the path Jesus is inviting me to walk?" What does it mean to follow Jesus today? How do we develop the lifestyle of a disciple?

Here is a checklist for you to use this first week of autumn:

1. Am I creating time for daily, deliberate, personal prayer?
2. Am I taking the Bible down from the shelf and applying the Word of God to my life?
3. Am I engaging in the power of the sacraments uniting me to Christ?
4. Am I learning to forgive others?
5. Am I living a life empowered by the Holy Spirit?
6. Am I recognizing and combating the struggles that accompany those who follow Christ?

AUTUMN LEAF FESTIVAL – "An American Autumn" is just one week away! Please support our parish's booths, stands and activities.

- Immaculate Conception School PTO "ALF Pie Sale" – all day next Sunday
- Knights of Columbus – Council 7549 "Hot Sausage Stand" - all week
- Knights of Columbus – Council 7549 "Kettle Corn Stand" – various times
- The PTO "Annual Crafter's Day Fair" – Parish Events Center – October 4
- The PTO "Soup and Sandwich Sale" - Cafeteria – October 4

Don't forget – the parish office is closed on Friday, Oct. 4!

COLLECTION FOR THE FOOD PANTRY – Please help Immaculate Conception Parish and School support the food pantry sponsored by Community Action. During September, we are asking you to donate **mac-and-cheese**. Other non-perishable food items are always welcome! Please place your donated items in the designated containers in the lobby of the Church.



THE SEASONS OF LIFE — You see the signs all around. Leaves turn from green to yellow to orange or red, then fall and fade to brown. Birds slowly disappear for the south. Grass withers underfoot. "To everything there is a season," we read in Ecclesiastes. The natural world speaks spiritual truths, if only we have ears to hear. God invites each and every one of us into the seasonal progression of our own conversion. No matter who we are, each of us has something in our life that is ready to turn. Is it an area where we're weary? A good habit we've been putting off? A familial reconciliation that needs to happen? As the world passes from one season to another, where is God inviting you to turn toward Him?



SISTER TINA AND SISTER MARIAN, from Catholic Rural Ministry, are offering a Spiritual Enrichment Opportunity on October 18th and 19th in the Oil City Area. You are invited to one or both days. Catholic Rural Ministry and Venango Campus (CU) are collaborating to bring Edwina Gateley, an international speaker, to present on personal and global transformation. By using this link <http://www.clarion.edu/locations/clarion-university-venango/index.html>

you can find out more information and sign up. The fee for each day is only \$15.00, which includes lunch. Please take time to look into this wonderful opportunity and join together with others and be enriched by Edwina, who is a single mother who inspires.

NEARBY — St. Joseph’s Parish in Lucinda will host their annual fall dinner on Sunday, October 13, 2019, in the parish social center.

A country-style turkey and ham dinner will be served from 11 am to 1:30 pm. Cost is \$10 for adults, \$5 for children, and free for preschoolers.

Dinners are served on a first-come-first-served basis and take out dinners will be available.

Raffle Prizes: 1st Prize — Choice of Quilt
2nd prize — \$200 3rd prize — \$100



WE ARE.... This week's spotlight is focused on **Maddie Cicconi**, a speech pathology major. Check out Maddie's comments on our Facebook page.

OUR INTERNS — Besides **Bruno the Magnificent**, the two other Campus Ministry interns are **Emma Cussins** and **Lexi Lorenz**.

LETTER TO A SUFFERING CHURCH — The CU Catholic small groups who meet on Tuesday nights and Thursdays will be reading, discussing, and praying with Bishop Robert Barron's book on the sexual abuse crisis. Students who want a copy of Bishop Barron's book, stop in at the Campus Ministry House.

MASST INTENTIONS

- Monday, September 23 - Saint Pius of Pietrelcina**
8:30 am Gordon Rice (Liz and Ed Heil)
- Tuesday, September 24**
8:30 am Joe Stahlman (Vickie and Dana Host)
- Wednesday, September 25**
5:30 pm Mary Jane Miller (Nathan Blachier)
- Thursday, September 26 - Saints Cosmas and Damian**
8:30 am Kathleen Servey (Stella Allio and Family)
- Friday, September 27 - Saint Vincent de Paul**
8:30 am Ralph and Marian Lander (Rob, Lynne and Blaise Fleisher)
- Saturday, September 28 - Saint Wenceslaus, Saint Lawrence Ruiz and Companions**
4:00 pm Albert and Gertrude Hartle (Estate)
- Sunday, September 29 - Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time**
8:30 am Bob Schwabenbauer (Dave and Gerrie Weaver)
8:30 am RADIO MASS — Deceased members of Knights of Columbus Council #7549
11:00 am For the People

Readings for the week of September 22, 2019

- Monday:** Ezr 1:1-6/Ps 126:1b-2ab, 2cd-3, 4-5, 6 [3] /Lk 8:16-18
- Tuesday:** Ezr 6:7-8, 12b, 14-20/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4ab, 4cd-5 [1]/Lk 8:19-21
- Wednesday:** Ezr 9:5-9/Tb 13:2, 3-4a, 4befghn, 7-8 [1b] /Lk 9:1-6
- Thursday:** Hg 1:1-8/Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b [cf. 4a]/Lk 9:7-9
- Friday:** Hg 2:1-9/Ps 43:1, 2, 3, 4 [5]/Lk 9:18-22
- Saturday:** Zec 2:5-9, 14-15a/Jer 31:10, 11-12a, 13 [cf. 10d]/Lk 9:43b-45
- Next Sunday:** Am 6:1a, 4-7/Ps 146:7, 8-9, 9-10 [1b] /1 Tm 6:11-16/Lk 16:19-31

QUESTION OF THE WEEK FOR FAITH SHARING

The Value of Honesty

Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. (Luke 16:10)

Adults: Can cheating and deception ever be justified?

Kids: If someone treats you unfairly, do you have the right to do the same to them?



MONEY COUNTERS
Monday, September 23
Team 2

<i>Thank You!</i>	<i>September 14-15</i>
Envelopes	\$7,020.00
Loose	1,282.00
Monthly	325.00
Votive	105.00
Flowers	140.00
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