



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

Inviting—Uniting—Igniting

720 Liberty Street
Clarion, Pennsylvania 16214

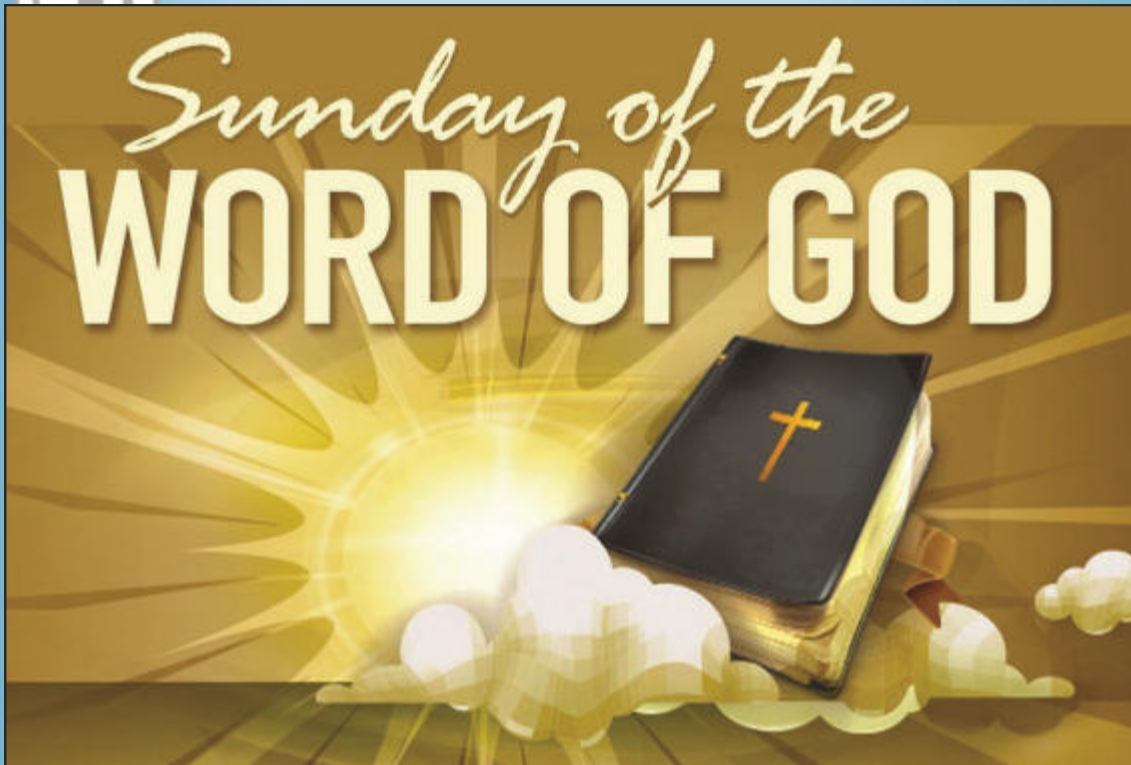
Mass Schedule

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



“He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures” (Lk 24:45).

Church & School: 814-226-8433
Parish Staff

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EXERPT FROM THE APOSTOLIC LETTER "APERUIT ILLIS" BY POPE FRANCIS, INSTITUTING THE SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD

4. The return of the people of Israel to their homeland after the Babylonian exile was marked by the public reading of the book of the Law. In the book of Nehemiah, the Bible gives us a moving description of that moment. The people assembled in Jerusalem, in the square before the Water Gate, to listen to the Law. They had been scattered in exile, but now they found themselves gathered "as one" around the sacred Scripture (*Neh* 8:1). The people lent "attentive ears" (*Neh* 8:3) to the reading of the sacred book, realizing that in its words they would discover the meaning of their lived experience. The reaction to the proclamation was one of great emotion and tears: "[The Levites] read from the book, from the law of God, clearly; and they gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading. And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, 'This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep'. For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. Then he said to them, 'Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions to him for whom nothing is prepared; for this day is holy to our Lord; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength'" (*Neh* 8:8-10).

These words contain a great teaching. The Bible cannot be just the heritage of some, much less a collection of books for the benefit of a privileged few. It belongs above all to those called to hear its message and to recognize themselves in its words. At times, there can be a tendency to monopolize the sacred text by restricting it to certain circles or to select groups. It cannot be that way. The Bible is the book of the Lord's people, who, in listening to it, move from dispersion and division towards unity. The word of God unites believers and makes them one people.

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BOOK FAIR – Immaculate Conception Parish School invites you to shop our Virtual Book Fair and support our school!

The Fair runs from January 22 through February 4th. Our Fair will feature a Virtual Fair walk-through so you and your kids can enjoy the magic of the school

shopping experience: Browse titles by grade, meet popular authors, and much more!

All purchases will benefit our school directly (25% back in rewards). Don't miss these two weeks of events, fun, and books. Virtual Store Opens January 22 at:

<https://www.scholastic.com/bf/immaculateconceptionschool38>

We can't wait to "see" you at the Fair!



A MESSAGE FROM FATHER MONTY

Sunday of the Word of God – In an Apostolic Letter published on September 30, 2019, Pope Francis established an annual observance of the Sunday of the Word of God on the third Sunday of Ordinary Time in winter.

"May the Sunday of the Word of God", he wrote, "help his people to grow in religious and intimate familiarity with the sacred Scriptures."

The Holy Bible is enshrined this Sunday on a stand near the presider's chair.

When I met with our ninth grade students last fall, I challenged them to read the Gospel of Mark by the end of January 2021. Why don't you take my challenge and meet Jesus—"healer and miracle worker who accepts suffering as the cost for following God's will"—in the Gospel of Mark? You may want to sit down and read it straight through. With just sixteen chapters, you could just pick up your Bible and read Mark's Gospel in about the time it takes to binge watch on Netflix or Amazon Prime or watch the Super Bowl.



SPECIAL RITES IN FEBRUARY

THE FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD– **Tuesday, February 2 – 8:30 a.m.** Falling 40 days after Christmas, this feast recalls Simeon's declaration that the Christ Child is "A revealing light to the Gentiles, the glory of your people Israel".

THE ORDER FOR BLESSING THROATS ON THE FEAST OF ST. BLASE WILL NOT BE OFFERED AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION ON FEBRUARY 3.

Due to social distancing, individual blessings will not be available in 2021. The prayer for the blessing of throats will be imparted as a Solemn Blessing at the end of all Masses on the Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time, January 30 – 31.

SACRAMENT OF THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK – The Holy Father has designated February 11—the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes—as *World Day of the Sick*. The sacrament of the anointing of the sick will be available on **Thursday, February 11 at the 8:30 a.m. Mass.**

BURNING OF BLESSED PALMS – This year the Parish is collecting and burning old palm fronds, crosses, etc. until Sunday, February 14. Bring **LOOSE** palm—**DO NOT BAG OR TIE THEM**—to the Church lobby and place them in the box provided. The solemn burning of the palms will take place on Sunday, February 14 after the 11:00 a.m. Mass.

HOME VISITS - With first Friday communion calls suspended for the foreseeable future, the only way for the sick, the homebound, those preparing for surgery or those not ready to return to Sunday Mass to receive the Sacraments is to call Father Monty (226-8433 Ext. 102) to schedule a pastoral home visit.

RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS – Give Until It Hurts

One of the characteristics of Everyday Stewardship is to be committed — to persevere daily in a way of life acknowledging that everything belongs to God.

I know, I know. Easier said than done.

Just ask Zebedee. It's quite an image we get from the Gospel, after all. "So they left their father Zebedee in the boat along with the hired men and followed him."

There was Zebedee, about his business, mending nets with his two sons, who were undoubtedly his best workers — they had to have been more dedicated than the hired men, who worked for wages rather than for family. And in an instant off they go, following this strange man.

I don't know about you, but if my kids left me on a hot summer day to finish the lawn by myself, I wouldn't be too happy.

But Zebedee must have been someone quite special. Perhaps he realized that his sons didn't belong to him — not really. They belonged to God, and from the beginning of time, it had been appointed that they would be among the first disciples of Christ. He passed, He called, they followed, and Zebedee obliged. He simply went back to mending his nets, I imagine.

Zebedee already understood what St. Teresa of Calcutta would say millennia later: "Give until it hurts."

"You're wasting my time." "I've done so much for her; she owes me this." How often do we think things, and even people and relationships, belong to us? The truth is none of them do. We must be ready, as Zebedee was, to surrender them to God when He comes walking past.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

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FOOD PANTRY – Please help Immaculate Conception Parish and School collect items for the Food Pantry sponsored by Community Action. In January, they are collecting **Tooth Brushes, Tooth Paste, Soap, Shampoo, and Sponges.** In February, the focus will be on **Box Food (Pasta), Sauces and Soup.**



The pantry welcomes all types of non-perishable food items at any time. Please place your donated items in the containers in the lobby of the Church. **THANK YOU!**

FAMILY CATECHESIS:

ABOUT THE GOSPEL: Jesus calls Andrew, Simon (Peter), James, and John to leave their jobs as fishermen and to follow him. When God calls, we must be ready to drop everything and follow.

Life Question: Who are your role models as Christians?

Gospel Question: What attracts you about following Jesus? What would you have to leave behind to follow Him?

Family Prayer: Lord, help us to follow you because you know what will make us truly happy. Amen.



Monday, January 25 - The Conversion of Saint Paul the Apostle

12:10 p.m. Margaret "Mickey" Senard (Doris Cherico and Family)

Tuesday, January 26 - Saints Timothy and Titus

8:30 a.m. Jesse Copenhaver (Joan Lander and Family)

Wednesday, January 27 - Saint Angela Merici

— NO MASS —

Thursday, January 28 - Saint Thomas Aquinas

8:30 a.m. Dawn and Dennis Kidney (Maribeth Kidney)

Friday, January 29

TBA Louise Schmader (Estate)

Saturday, January 30

4:00 p.m. James Smathers (Karla and Chuck Beichner)

Sunday, January 31 - Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30 a.m. For the People

8:30 a.m. RADIO MASS — Craig Beary (Richard and Cindy Beary)

11:00 a.m. Paul Stehle (Schmader Family)

Readings for the week of January 24, 2021

Monday: Acts 22:3-16 or Acts 9:1-22/Ps 117:1bc, 2 [Mk 16:15]/Mk 16:15-18

Tuesday: 2 Tm 1:1-8 or Ti 1:1-5/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 7-8a, 10 [3]/Mk 3:31-35

Wednesday: Heb 10:11-18/Ps 110:1, 2, 3, 4 [4b] /Mk 4:1-20

Thursday: Heb 10:19-25/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6 [cf. 6] /Mk 4:21-25

Friday: Heb 10:32-39/Ps 37:3-4, 5-6, 23-24, 39-40 [39a] /Mk 4:26-34

Saturday: Heb 11:1-2, 8-19/Lk 1:69-70, 71-72, 73-75 [cf. 68]/Mk 4:35-41

Next Sunday: Dt 18:15-20/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 7-9 [8] /1 Cor 7:32-35/Mk 1:21-28



Do not lose heart, even if you should discover that you lack qualities necessary for the work to which you are called. He who called you will not desert you, but the moment you are in need he will stretch out his saving hand.
~Saint Angela Merici

Addition to the Prayer List:
Kathy Schmader



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Loose	125.00
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