

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

The Very Reverend
B. LaMounte Sayers, VF
Pastor

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Parish Liturgical Coordinator

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Linda Summerville

Adult Faith Formation Director

linda.summerville62@gmail.com

Lori Cratty

Principal

lcratty@clarionichawks.net

Connie Eisenman

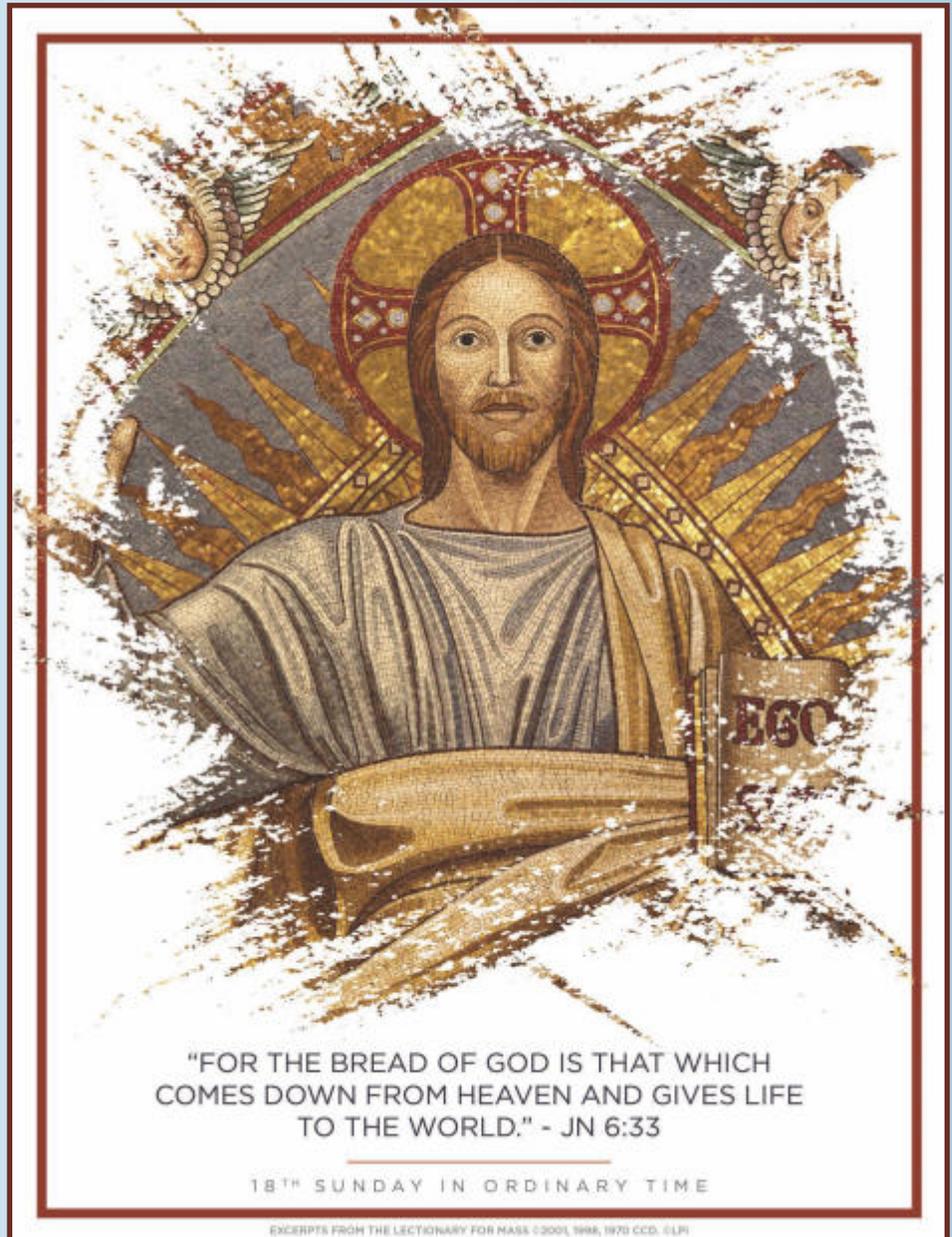
Office Coordinator

ceisenman@clarionichawks.net

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.



"FOR THE BREAD OF GOD IS THAT WHICH
COMES DOWN FROM HEAVEN AND GIVES LIFE
TO THE WORLD." - JN 6:33

18TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

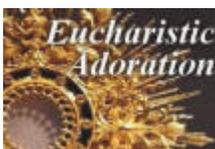
EXCERPTS FROM THE LECTIONARY FOR MASS ©2002, 1996, 1970 CCD, SLP

GOSPEL MEDITATION - “You cannot see the forest for the trees” is a widely known saying that can bring wisdom to our understanding of our journey. Often, our sight becomes limited to what is immediately before us. We lose touch with lessons and experiences from the past and promises and hope for the future. As human beings, we have the privilege of being able to choose things. What I like and don’t like, want, and don’t want can be major preoccupations of our minds and hearts. Our preferences and desires begin to define us more than the simple fact of our being. Who we are matters more than what we are or what we have. If we don’t move beyond the external and superficial stuff to what really is of essence, we risk becoming very unsettled, disorientated, angry, and unhappy. We fail to see the bigger picture of hope and promise that lies ahead and the Divine Presence that has sustained and carried us before.

We like it when the “now” time of our lives satisfy us. Even the people who witnessed Jesus feed the five thousand got confused and distracted. It felt good when thousands of people were able to eat. They wanted to know what they could do to get this to happen again! But Jesus quickly reminds them that this is not the point of this sign. As much as the now time of our lives is of concern, it is not what is ultimately important. We need to learn the difference between being and doing, drawing more strength from who we are and who God is rather than what is happening around us and the choices we can make. Jesus is the true bread that came down from heaven. Jesus is the very incarnate presence of God who sustains life and assures us that we will not perish. This is not easy to understand and feel. We have to practice being in the presence of ourselves, others, creation, and God. We are brought to a holy place when we encounter the sacredness of being. This is real prayer.

Then, we learn to trust. It is when we cease trusting that we start to become afraid, uncertain, apprehensive, and doubtful, and overly self-concerned. We even start to grumble. God has our back. That is the essential powerful message of the living bread come down from heaven. God, who is alpha is also omega, the beginning and the end, and has everything in between in his care as well. A woman once remarked that her most powerful God moment happened when she and her husband cuddled with their new baby for a time. Without exchanging words and using only the affection communicated through sight and touch, they rested in being with each other. This brought them to the sacred, where they realized that a greater Being was with them. It was real. They knew that they were part of something bigger, intimate, and profound. When we rest in the Living Source of life, we will find that our souls are no longer hungry or thirsty. ©LPi

EXPOSITION AND BENEDICTION – Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will follow the 12:10 p.m. Mass on August 6, the Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord, and the first Friday of the month. Adoration will continue all afternoon and conclude with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament at 5:30 p.m.



A MESSAGE FROM FATHER MONTY –

Year of Saint Joseph: A Father in the Shadows

In *Patrus Corde* (With a Father’s Love: December 2020), Pope Francis writes: “Fathers are not born, but made. A man does not become a father simply by bringing a child into the world, but by taking up the responsibility to care for that child. Whenever a man accepts responsibility for the life of another, in some way he becomes a father to that person...Being a father entails introducing children to life and reality. Not holding them back, being overprotective or possessive, but rather making them capable of deciding for themselves, enjoying freedom and exploring new possibilities... When fathers refuse to live the lives of their children for them, new and unexpected vistas open up. Every child is the bearer of a unique mystery that can only be brought to light with the help of a father who respects that child’s freedom. A father who realizes that he is most a father and educator at the point when he becomes “useless”, when he sees that his child has become independent and can walk the paths of life unaccompanied. When he becomes like Joseph, who always knew that his child was not his own but had merely been entrusted to his care” [7].

DIOCESAN ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION – Our parish is honored to be the host site of the annual Anniversary Mass for the western and eastern vicariates of our diocese Sunday afternoon at 2:00 pm. The liturgy, with Bishop Persico presiding, honors couples celebrating their 25th, 50th, 60th or 60+ wedding anniversaries. A light reception will follow in the Parish Events Center. A warm welcome to one and all attending this event today!

THE FLOWERS AT THE ALTAR are given to the Glory of God and in honor of our guests, visitors and their families, gathering with the Bishop, to celebrate their milestone anniversaries.

Prayer of a Couple on the Anniversary of Marriage



We praise you, O God, we bless you, Creator of all things, who in the beginning made man and woman that they might form a communion of life and love.

We also give you thanks for graciously blessing our family life so that it might present an image of Christ's union with the Church.

Therefore look with kindness upon us today, and as you have sustained our communion amid joys and struggles, renew our Marriage covenant each day, increase our charity, and strengthen in us the bond of peace, so that we may forever enjoy your blessing. Through Christ our Lord Amen.

From the website of United State Conference of Catholic Bishops

THE SACRAMENT OF PENANCE - is scheduled for the following dates in August:

- Thursday, August 5 – Following the 8:30 Mass
- Saturday, August 7 – 3:00 – 3:30 p.m.
- Saturday, August 21 – 3:00 – 3:30 p.m. (Visiting Priest)

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK FOR FAITH SHARING

Key Passage: So they said to Jesus, "What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing?" (John 6:30)

Question for Adults: When has your faith helped you believe without "seeing signs" from God?

Question for Kids: Who helps you believe in things you cannot see?



Looking for Catholic community? Don't know where all the single Catholics are hanging out? Come find them in Denver, CO **August 20-22, 2021**, and get the in-person experience with hundreds of other attendees, **OR attend virtually with people from around the globe** (registration for virtual option coming soon)!

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If joining us in-person: be sure to register **BEFORE AUGUST 6th to save \$30**

AND use our special discount code: **NCSC21 to get \$20 more off.**

For more information and to register, visit www.NationalCatholicSingles.com.

(Can't find your question answered on the website? Call 512-766-5798.)



Child Protection and Creating Safe Environments - Documentation for Safety: Working alongside the Bishop, the Office for the Protection of Children and Youth reinforces the ongoing implementation of policies and

procedures that protect children. All employees, volunteers and clergy in the Diocese of Erie who work with children must undergo criminal record checks. The diocesan Policy for the Protection of Children and Youth screening guidelines and abuse prevention training programs emphasize the importance of knowing the employees and volunteers who have access to children in our schools and parishes. Parents should remain vigilant in insisting that those with access to their children have gone through an application process and obtained the required clearances and trainings before being granted access to their children. Visit <https://www.eriecd.org/childprotection/> to see what documentation and training is required for those who work with children and youth in our parishes/schools/agencies.

MASS Intentions

Monday, August 2 - Saint Eusebius of Vercelli and Saint Peter Julian Eymard

12:10 p.m. Rita and Frank Kiser (Barb Schettler)

Tuesday, August 3

8:30 a.m. Mickey Senard (Hazel Goodwin)

Wednesday, August 4 - Saint John Vianney

NO MASS

Thursday, August 5 - The Dedication of the Basilica of Saint Mary Major

8:30 a.m. Deceased Members of Vickie Ferringer's Family

Friday, August 6 - The Transfiguration of the Lord

Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament after 12:10 Mass Adoration throughout the afternoon concluding with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament at 5:30 p.m.

12:10 p.m. Mary Schierberl (Dick Stevenson and Family)

Saturday, August 7 - Saint Sixtus II (Pope) and Companions

4:00 p.m. Bill, Martina, and Bernadette Huefner (Mike, Marlene, Emily and Wyatt)

Sunday, August 8 - Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30 a.m. For the People

8:30 a.m. RADIO MASS—John and Helen Stahlman (Estate)

11:00 a.m. Tom Smail (Carol, Joe, and Steve)

Readings for the week of August 1, 2021

Monday: Nm 11:4b-15/Ps 81:12-13, 14-15, 16-17 [2a] /Mt 14:13-21

Tuesday: Nm 12:1-13/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 6cd-7, 12-13 [cf. 3a]/Mt 14:22-36 or Mt 15:1-2, 10-14

Wednesday: Nm 13:1-2, 25—14:1, 26-29a, 34-35 /Ps 106:6-7ab, 13-14, 21-22, 23 [4a]/Mt 15:21-28

Thursday: Nm 20:1-13/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9 [8] /Mt 16:13-23

Friday: Dn 7:9-10, 13-14/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 9 [1a and 9a] /2 Pt 1:16-19/Mk 9:2-10

Saturday: Dn 6:4-13/Ps 18: 28, 3-4, 47 and 51 /Mk 17:14-20

Next Sunday: 1 Kgs 19:4-8/Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9 [9a] /Eph 4:30—5:2/Jn 6:41-51



Addition to the Prayer List:
Jackson Goughler



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July 24 –25,
2021

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