

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
montysayers@hotmail.com

Deacon Joseph Glover
jglover@eriercd.org

Kim Kroh
Business Manager
KimKroh@comcast.net

Theresa McMillen
Parish Liturgical Coordinator
tmcmillen1@comcast.net

Teresa Frederick
Faith Formation Director
tdfrederick@comcast.net

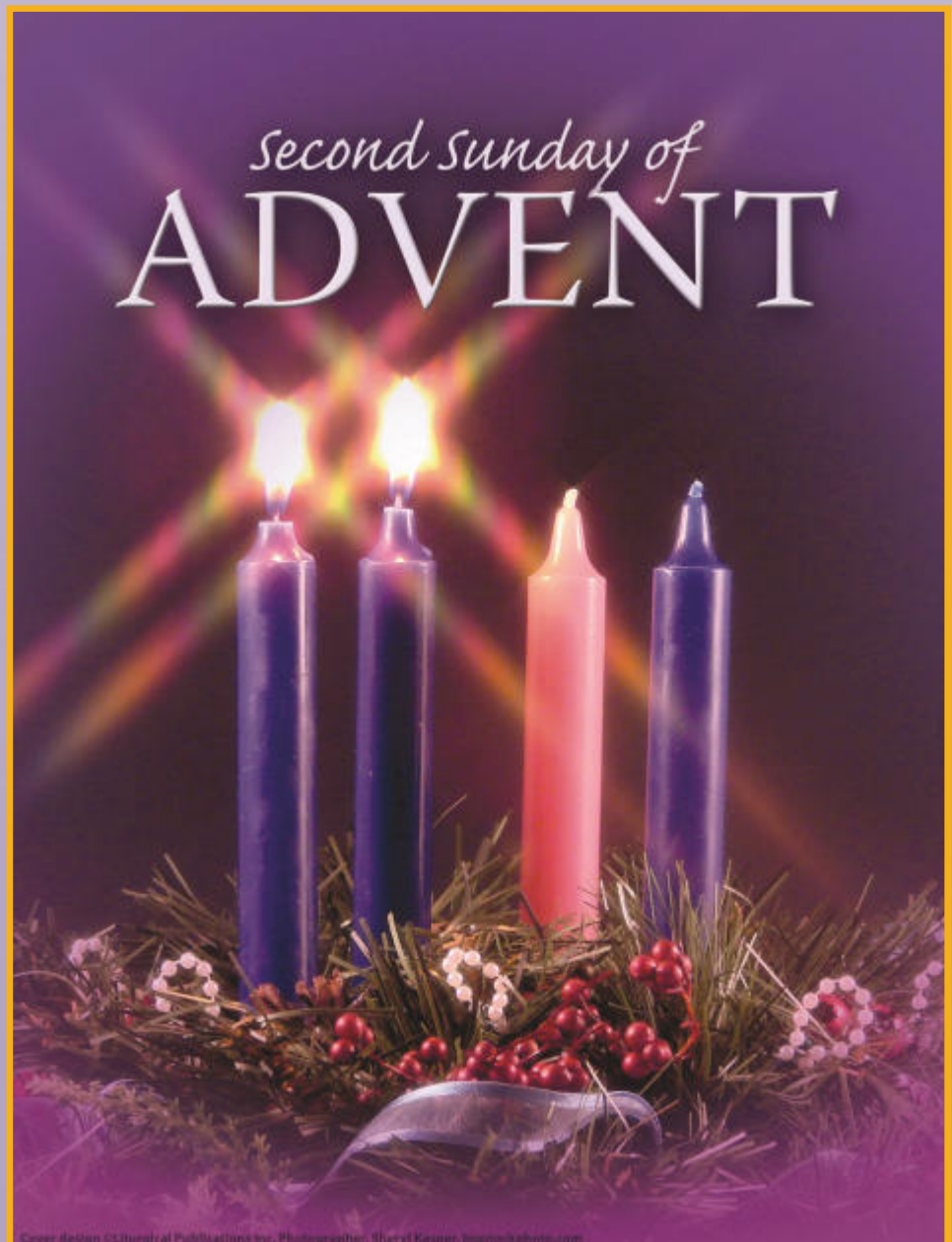
Linda Summerville
Adult Faith Formation Director
linda.summerville62@gmail.com

Lori Cratty
Principal
lcratty@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.



A MESSAGE FROM BISHOP PERSICO – The Bishop writes from the Chancery in Erie about the upcoming Retirement Fund for Religious Appeal.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The annual collection for our Retired Religious will be held in parishes on December 11th and 12th. This collection has significant benefits for the retired Sisters in our diocese, as well as for the over 30,000 retired religious throughout the country.

The Retirement Fund for Religious offers financial support for those Catholic sisters, brothers and religious order priests who worked for years for little or no stipends. Last year, the people in this diocese contributed more than \$150,000 to help defray the costs of medication, nursing care, medical equipment, transportation, physical and occupational therapy and other necessary needs.

The pandemic has been especially hard on communities of our elderly religious. All of our large convents in Erie have suffered through bouts of COVID with two Sisters dying of the illness. Strict COVID-19 protocols and visiting restrictions, along with additional costs, have taken an emotional toll of loneliness and isolation for our senior religious. Your generous gift provides vital support for their ongoing health care, helping them to age with dignity, in safety and comfort.

Senior Religious are a treasure of the Church. Some of you may not presently know consecrated men and women, but they have affected your lives through their ministry to your parents and grandparents and through the many organizations now in place due to their foresightedness and generosity. Their dedication and hard work laid the foundation for Catholic schools, religious education programs, hospitals, social service agencies and countless other ministries throughout our diocese; many still serve those in need, today. I join you in praising God for their faithful and generous service to the Church in the past and in the days and years to come.

I understand you are asked to support many worthy causes. I invite you only to be as generous as you can. Most importantly, please continue to pray for an increase of vocations to the consecrated life and for God's blessing on all our women and men religious. Know you remain in their prayers and in mine.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ The Most Reverend Lawrence T. Persico, J.C.L.

Bishop of Erie

THERE IS AN ENVELOPE IN YOUR LATE FALL PACKET FOR THIS ANNUAL APPEAL.

“CHILDREN’S MEMORIAL DAY” - The second Sunday in December is “Children’s Memorial Day”. It is a day of remembrance for families who grieve the death of a child. Around the world, families light a candle at 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 13 to acknowledge and to commemorate their children. In our own parish, in the past year the following parents have lost children:

Bill and LaJean Judy and Freda Schwabenbauer

Please support them in their loss this holiday season by a phone call, a card, or a caring gesture. And don't forget! Light a candle next Sunday night at 7:00 p.m.

A MESSAGE FROM FATHER MONTY - Several years ago I wrote about preparing for Christmas by praying my “Advent mysteries” of the rosary. In their 1973 document *Behold Your Mother*, the bishops of the U.S. encouraged Catholic devotion both to Mary and to the rosary. They wrote at that time “While retaining the established rosary pattern, new forms may be tried. New sets of mysteries are possible.” Saint Pope Paul VI encouraged similar deepening of the rosary prayer in his apostolic letter *Marialis Cultus* (1974) reminding Catholics that the rosary was meant to foster meditation “on the mysteries of the Incarnation and the Paschal Mystery of our Lord, Jesus Christ” through the eyes of his blessed mother. In 2002, Saint Pope John Paul II surprised Catholics around the globe when he added the *Luminous Mysteries* as “an addition to the traditional pattern”.

My five “Advent Mysteries” are based on five scriptural events surrounding the birth of Jesus and the announcement of his coming as the Son of God.

- 1. Inspired by the Holy Spirit, mystics, magi kings, seers and prophets awaited the Savior of the World** (Read: Micah 5) “For all the oracles of the prophets foretold him...” – *Advent Preface II*.
- 2. The Announcement of the Birth of Jesus to Mary** (Read: Luke 1:26-38) “Son of God the Most High, your coming was announced to the Virgin Mary by Gabriel...” – *Advent I Evening Prayer II*.
- 3. The Encounter at Ein Karem** (Read Luke 1:39-56) “Holy One of God, in your presence John the Baptist leapt in Elizabeth’s womb...” – *Advent I Evening Prayer II*.
- 4. The Birth of last prophet of Israel, Saint John the Forerunner** (Read Luke 1:57-80), “O Rising Sun that never sets, Zechariah foretold that you would visit from above...” – *Advent I Evening Prayer II*.
- 5. The Announcement of the Birth of Jesus to Joseph** (Read: Matthew 1:18-25) “Jesus the Savior, the angel revealed your name to Joseph the just man...” – *Advent I Evening Prayer II*.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY THE SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY – Masses in observance of this solemnity, the patronal feast of our parish and of the United States of America will be Wednesday, December 8 at 8:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.



ADVENT PENANCE SERVICES – Clarion County penance services begin Sunday:

St. Mary, Crown	Sunday, December 5	3:00 p.m.
St. Joseph/St. Michael	Monday, December 6	7:00 p.m.
St. Charles, NB	Tuesday, December 14	7:00 p.m.

Immaculate Conception

Wednesday, December 15 7:00 p.m.

Other times for Penance at Immaculate Conception are:

- Saturday, December 11 at 3:00 p.m.
- Saturday, December 18 at 3:00 p.m.

CHRISTMAS LITURGY SCHEDULE

Nativity of the Lord

Friday, December 24 - Christmas Eve

Vigil Mass – 5:00 p.m.

Mass at Night – 10:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 25 – Christmas Day

Mass at Dawn – 8:30 a.m.

Mass During the Day – 11:00 a.m.

(There is no 4:00 p.m. anticipated Mass on Christmas Day)

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Sunday, December 26

8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA — Visit <https://wreathscrossamerica.org/social/PA0199P-ClarionCompositeSquadronCivilAirPatrolNER-PA-326?Sid=22414|0|0|4> to learn how you can help by sponsoring Veterans Remembrance Wreaths (this link is on the parish website, which makes it easier to access). Wreaths will be placed on December 18.



SCRIP BLITZ — Immaculate Conception school sells gift cards year-round to provide an easy way for you to support the education of our students. Please stop at the children’s chapel after Mass to preview the list. Your purchase of \$300 worth of Scrip during the ongoing **SCRIP BLITZ** from now through December 12, will enter you in a drawing for a \$50 gift card. If you have any questions, please contact **Deanna Miller** at 814-229-0236. To view and print the latest “Scrip-to-Go” order form, visit the parish website and click on the Scrip graphic.



Be prepared for the holiday season by supporting the IC School through the RADA Cutlery fundraiser. This makes a fantastic gift option with many items to choose from. Every purchase helps the school. Just use the link below (specific to our fundraiser), start shopping, and feel free to share it with friends and family! Items can be purchased and shipped directly to the buyer. Thank you for your support! <https://radafundraising.com/?rfsn=6191356.bcbf9b3>



QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK FOR FAITH SHARING

Prayer of Repentance — John went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. (Luke 3:3)

Question for Adults: In what areas of your life do you need God’s forgiveness right now? What Advent practice would assist you in expressing your repentance?

Question for Kids: What do you want to ask God to forgive you for? What can you do during Advent to show you are sorry?



Addition to the Prayer List:
Deacon Mike Dittman

MASS Intentions

Monday, December 6 - Saint Nicholas

12:10 p.m. Deceased Members of Jane Mohney’s Family

Tuesday, December 7 - Saint Ambrose of Milan

8:30 a.m. Deceased Members of Anna Mussano’s Family

Wednesday, December 8 - THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

8:30 a.m. Mickey Senard (Randy and Calla Carmichael)

7:00 p.m. Peach Clark (Mary Schimp)

Thursday, December 9 -

Saint Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin

8:30 a.m. Deceased Members of Jim and Karen Pesek’s Family

Friday, December 10 - Our Lady of Loreto

8:30 a.m. Deceased Members of Tom and Nancy Rettig’s Family

Saturday, December 11 - Saint Damasus I, Pope

4:00 p.m. Joseph White (Phylliss White)

Sunday, December 12 - Third Sunday of Advent

8:30 a.m. Deceased Members of the Francis Allaman Family (Jane Yeany and Family)

8:30 a.m. RADIO MASS—Maureen “Peach” Clark (Lynnea McFerron)

11:00 a.m. For the People

Readings for the week of December 5, 2021

Monday: Is 35:1-10/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14 [cf. Is 35:4f]/Lk 5:17-26

Tuesday: Is 40:1-11/Ps 96:1-2, 3 and 10ac, 11-12, 13 [cf. Is 40:10ab]/Mt 18:12-14


Wednesday: Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 [1] /Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38

Thursday: Is 41:13-20/Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab [8]/Mt 11:11-15

Friday: Is 48:17-19/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6 [cf. Jn 8:12] /Mt 11:16-19

Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19 [4]/Mt 17:9a, 10-13

Next Sunday: Zep 3:14-18a/Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6 [6] /Phil 4:4-7/Lk 3:10-18

Thank You	Nov. 20 - 21	Nov. 27 - 28
Envelopes 	\$ 7,760.00	\$ 5,331.00
Loose	417.00	397.40
Monthly	580.00	175.00
Votive	117.50	
Human Development	1,862.00	
Flowers	155.00	22.00
TOTAL	\$ 10,891.50	\$ 5,925.40

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Merry Christmas
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