

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
montsayers@hotmail.com

Deacon Joseph Glover
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KimKroh@comcast.net

Theresa McMillen
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Teresa Frederick
Faith Formation Director
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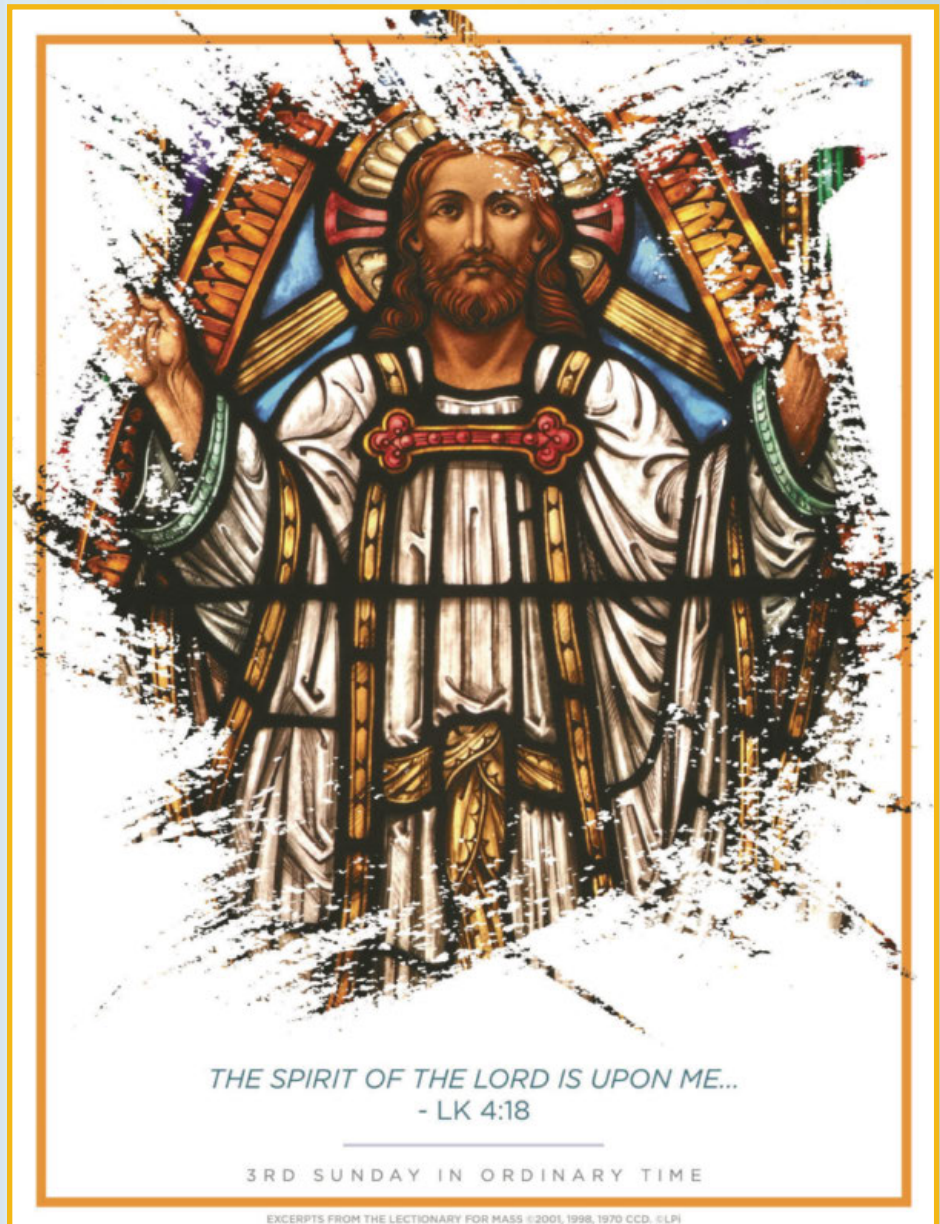
Linda Summerville
Adult Faith Formation Director
linda.summerville62@gmail.com

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.



THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS UPON ME...
- LK 4:18

3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

EXCERPTS FROM THE LECTIONARY FOR MASS ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. ©LPI

A MESSAGE FROM FATHER MONTY – Sunday of the Word of God

Today, I am meeting with our Ninth grade students to review the Gospel of Luke. Under the direction of their catechist, Ronnie Fenske, the group has been reading Luke since last fall. At our session, I ask the students to read a passage aloud—several verses, a pericope, or a parable—and then explain to the group why they chose that particular section of the Gospel.



I hope to offer an adult formation session this winter for those of you who accepted my challenge to support our students by reading Luke's Gospel. I'm still working out the details, but in order to participate in the series you must read the Gospel first. The series I'm planning will emphasize faith sharing—not instruction. If you've read the Gospel of Luke, you are welcome to participate. If not, start reading or stay home! More information is coming.

On this Sunday of the Word of God, 2022, I am offering you this excellent article by Mary Elizabeth Sperry, Associate Director for Utilization of the New American Bible at the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Ms. Sperry writes: "Today's Catholic is called to take an intelligent, spiritual approach to the bible. Listed here are 10 points for fruitful Scripture reading:

1. Bible reading is for Catholics. The Church encourages Catholics to make reading the Bible part of their daily prayer lives. Reading these inspired words, people grow deeper in their relationship with God and come to understand their place in the community God has called them to in himself.
2. Prayer is the beginning and the end. Reading the Bible is not like reading a novel or a history book. It should begin with a prayer asking the Holy Spirit to open our hearts and minds to the Word of God. Scripture reading should end with a prayer that this Word will bear fruit in our lives, helping us to become holier and more faithful people.
3. Get the whole story! When selecting a Bible, look for a Catholic edition. A Catholic edition will include the Church's complete list of sacred books along with introductions and notes for understanding the text. A Catholic edition will have an imprimatur notice on the back of the title page. An imprimatur indicates that the book is free of errors in Catholic doctrine.
4. The Bible isn't a book. It's a library. The Bible is a collection of 73 books written over the course of many centuries. The books include royal history, prophecy, poetry, challenging letters to struggling new faith communities, and believers' accounts of the preaching and passion of Jesus. Knowing the genre of the book you are reading will help you understand the literary tools the author is using and the meaning the author is trying to convey.
5. Know what the Bible is – and what it isn't. The Bible is the story of God's relationship with the people he has called to himself. It is not intended to be read as history text, a science book, or a political manifesto. In the Bible, God teaches us the truths that we need for the sake of our salvation.

6. The sum is greater than the parts. Read the Bible in context. What happens before and after – even in other books – helps us to understand the true meaning of the text.
7. The Old relates to the New. The Old Testament and the New Testament shed light on each other. While we read the Old Testament in light of the death and resurrection of Jesus, it has its own value as well. Together, these testaments help us to understand God's plan for human beings.
8. You do not read alone. By reading and reflecting on Sacred Scripture, Catholics join those faithful men and women who have taken God's Word to heart and put it into practice in their lives. We read the Bible within the tradition of the Church to benefit from the holiness and wisdom of all the faithful.
9. What is God saying to me? The Bible is not addressed only to long-dead people in a faraway land. It is addressed to each of us in our own unique situations. When we read, we need to understand what the text says and how the faithful have understood its meaning in the past. In light of this understanding, we then ask: What is God saying to me?
10. Reading isn't enough. If Scripture remains just words on a page, our work is not done. We need to meditate on the message and put it into action in our lives. Only then can the word be "living and effective" (Hebrews 4:12).



HAVE YOU RECEIVED THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION? Bishop Persico will be visiting Clarion County on Sunday, March 20 at 2:00 p.m. to confer the Sacrament of Confirmation. The ceremony will be held at

Immaculate Conception Church. Are you an adult who is baptized, received the sacraments of Penance and Eucharist, but is not Confirmed? If you would like to participate in the Confirmation ceremony, please phone or email the parish office and one of the staff will contact you with more information. There will be one catechetical session for adults desiring the Sacrament of Confirmation tentatively planned for Sunday, March 13.

YOUR 2021 CONTRIBUTIONS — If you would like to receive a statement of your 2021 offertory contributions, please email kimkroh@comcast.net or call (814) 226-8433, Extension 101. Due to the conversion to a new software program, statements will not be automatically emailed as they have been in years past.



QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK FOR FAITH SHARING

Jesus unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor."

(Luke 4:17b–18a)

Question for Adults: What do you believe that the anointing you received at baptism requires you to do?

Question for Kids: What could you do this week for someone who has less than you?

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

All children in grades
6, 7 and 8 are encouraged to
attend Immaculate Conception
Parish's



“Fifth Sunday Gathering”

On Sunday, January 30, 2022, from 9:30am – 10:45am
in the Parish Event Center

CANCER CENTER NEEDS TISSUES — The students at Immaculate Conception Parish School are collecting boxes of tissue for the cancer center. Please donate a box of tissue to help with the collection. Place your box under the bulletin board in the lobby. Collection dates are January 17th through January 30th.



LOTTERY CALENDARS — A few 2022 PTO Lottery Calendars are still available. The calendars are \$20 and are good for the entire year. If you are interested in purchasing a calendar, please email kimkroh@comcast.net or call 814-226-8433, Ext. 101.

Even though it is already January 23rd, the PTO will honor the win if the ticket you purchase was drawn earlier in January.

PLANT YOUR WORKS IN THE WORD

One of the things about Scripture is that even the smallest word and shortest phrase can be critical to the overall message. When you take a quiet moment to rest with the Word, you find how quickly the most mundane sentence can reach out and grab you, pulling you into a deeper contemplation of some truth you hadn't even considered until then.

But we often fail to act as the Israelites in the Book of Nehemiah, standing before the Water Gate “listening attentively.” Whether it's at Mass during the Liturgy of the Word or at home poring over the Bible, time after time we find ourselves less mindful than we could be. Our ears accept the sounds of the words and our eyes glance over the shape of the letters.

But are we mindful — truly?

The best answer is hopefully at least sometimes. There are always tasks to be completed, problems weighing on our minds that we can't quite give over to God. We lose ourselves in these things instead of in Scripture. We “clock in” with Bible reading instead of “diving in.”

We can never forget that the words of the Lord are spirit and life. They are the soil that quickens the seed of all stewardship. There is no mindfulness, no prayer, no graciousness, no gratitude or accountability or sense of commitment unless there is the Word.

So let us pray today for mindfulness, that our every action will be grounded in the law of God — giving it true spirit and life.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPi

MASS Intentions

Monday, January 24 - Saint Francis de Sales

12:10 p.m. Patty Hepler (Rita Amsler)

Tuesday, January 25 - The Conversion of Saint Paul

the Apostle

12:10 p.m. Cindy Wolbert-Green
(Chuck and Karla Beichner)

Wednesday, January 26 - Saints Timothy and Titus

— NO MASS —

Thursday, January 27 - Saint Angela Merici

11:00 a.m. James Ray Summerville
(Miles Family Grandchildren)

Friday, January 28 - Saint Thomas Aquinas

12:10 p.m. Anastasia Osterried (Family)

Saturday, January 29

4:00 p.m. Frank and Rita Kiser (Sylvia and Dan Kiser)

Sunday, January 30 - Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Beginning of Catholic Schools Week

8:30 a.m. For the People

8:30 a.m. RADIO MASS—Frances Kelley
(Cathy and Chris Moretti)

11:00 a.m. Ralph and Marian Lander
(Lynne, Rob, and Blaise Fleisher)

Readings for the week of January 23, 2022

Monday: 2 Sm 5:1-7, 10/Ps 89:20, 21-22, 25-26
/Mk 3:22-30

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

Wednesday: 2 Tm 1:1-8 or Ti 1:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 27-28,
29-30/Mk 4:1-20

Thursday: 2 Sm 7:18-19, 24-29/Ps 132:1-2, 3-5, 11, 12,
13-14/Mk 4:21-25

Friday: 2 Sm 11:1-4a, 5-10a, 13-17/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6a,
6bcd-7, 10-11/Mk 4:26-34

Saturday: 2 Sm 12:1-7a, 10-17/Ps 51:12-13, 14-15,
16-17/Mk 4:35-41

Next Sunday: Jer 1:4-5, 17-19/Ps 71:1-2, 3-4, 5-6,
15-17 [cf. 15ab]/1 Cor 12:31—13:13 or 13:4-13
/Lk 4:21-30

WELCOME BACK CLARION UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

A Family Perspective — In today's gospel Jesus was “praised by all” except at home in Nazareth where the “eyes of all were intently on him.” Acceptance can be hard to find at home due to unreal EXPECTATIONS. Jesus challenges us to “proclaim liberty” to anyone “oppressed” or “captive” by our EXPECTATIONS.

Money Counters Monday, January 24 Team 1

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