



# 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. LaMoute Sayers, VF  
Pastor  
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Deacon Joseph Glover  
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Linda Summerville  
Adult Faith Formation Director  
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Lori Cratty  
Principal  
lcratty@clarionichawks.net

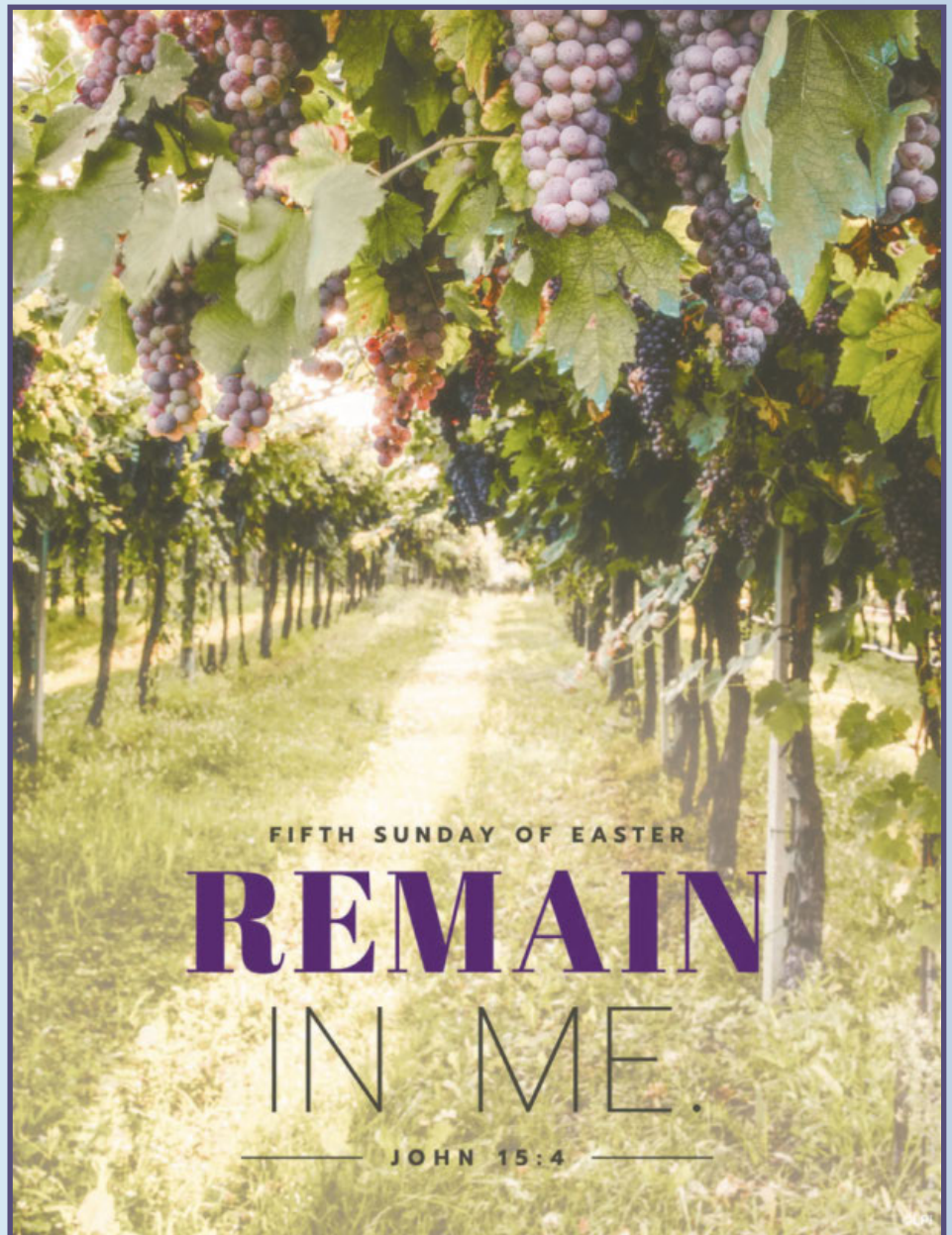
Caleigh Stout  
School Office Coordinator  
cstout@clarionichawks.net

Greg Pedley  
Buildings & Grounds Manager  
gpedley@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.



FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

# REMAIN IN ME.

JOHN 15:4

**POPE FRANCIS' WORLD WIDE PRAYER NETWORK'S INTENTION FOR MAY 2024**

- **For The Formation Of Religious And Seminarians:** *We pray that religious women and men, and seminarians, grow in their own vocations through their human, pastoral, spiritual and community formation, leading them to be credible witnesses to the Gospel.*



**CEMETERY NOTICE** – Before you plant or place decorations on graves in the next few weeks, please consult the Immaculate Conception Cemetery regulations.

The regulations are clearly posted in the parish cemetery. These regulations have been enacted to preserve the dignity of our parish cemetery and for the protection of cemetery employees.

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

- ❖ Thursday, May 2 – Following the 11:00 a.m. Mass
- ❖ Saturday, May 4 at 3:00 p.m.
- ❖ Saturday, May 18 at 3:00 p.m.
- ❖ By appointment



**COMING  
AUGUST 4,  
2024**

**GOSPEL MEDITATION**

My friend and fellow pastor, Father Paul, noticed unsightly, overgrown trees near his parish church. He asked the maintenance crew to cut back the growth, which they happily did, telling him the trees would be much healthier and even fuller after a good pruning. A few days later, Father Paul received a letter from an irate man in the neighborhood who wrote, “Jesus would never prune trees like that. He loves trees, unlike you.”

I suspect that the neighbor was not familiar with this week’s Gospel in which Jesus says of his Father, “He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit” (John 15:2) I don’t mean to pick too much on that fellow. He was perhaps ignorant of arboriculture. But I’d wager his main confusion was the pruning and removing quality of God’s love. That confusion afflicts us all to some degree, doesn’t it? It is just so darn easy to react negatively when God cuts something out of our lives and assume it’s not his work at all. In the moment, all we see is the loss, and not the loving desire for future flourishing.

The cross is the great pruning of Christ’s body. Jesus’ rising is the brand-new growth. It is God’s promise to us that all the painful pruning in life is leading us somewhere beautiful. What has been cut back or out in your life? A friend, an opportunity, a sense of certainty, a job, health, a relationship? This week, offer those dry branches to the one who lovingly prunes us in order to make our lives burst with verdant growth.

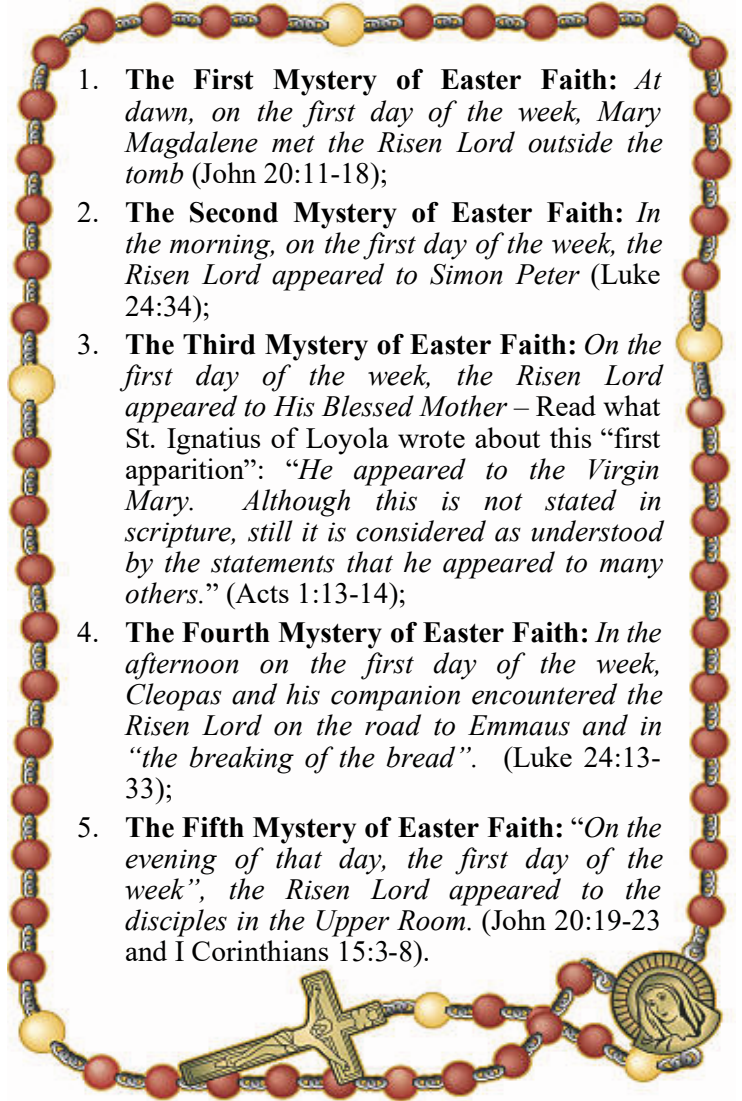
— Father John Muir

©LPi

**A MESSAGE FROM FATHER MONTY –**

**May: Month of Our Lady and the Rosary**

The last time I wrote about praying the mysteries of the Rosary we were barely a month into the Covid-19 pandemic lockdown. I told you then, that in addition to meditating on the traditional mysteries—Joyful, Luminous, Sorrowful and Glorious—I was praying as well what I call the “Mysteries of Easter Faith”. Here are those Mysteries for 2024.



1. **The First Mystery of Easter Faith:** *At dawn, on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene met the Risen Lord outside the tomb (John 20:11-18);*
2. **The Second Mystery of Easter Faith:** *In the morning, on the first day of the week, the Risen Lord appeared to Simon Peter (Luke 24:34);*
3. **The Third Mystery of Easter Faith:** *On the first day of the week, the Risen Lord appeared to His Blessed Mother – Read what St. Ignatius of Loyola wrote about this “first apparition”: “He appeared to the Virgin Mary. Although this is not stated in scripture, still it is considered as understood by the statements that he appeared to many others.” (Acts 1:13-14);*
4. **The Fourth Mystery of Easter Faith:** *In the afternoon on the first day of the week, Cleopas and his companion encountered the Risen Lord on the road to Emmaus and in “the breaking of the bread”. (Luke 24:13-33);*
5. **The Fifth Mystery of Easter Faith:** *“On the evening of that day, the first day of the week”, the Risen Lord appeared to the disciples in the Upper Room. (John 20:19-23 and I Corinthians 15:3-8).*

**How To Pray The Rosary? A Step-By-Step Visual Guide**

- Enter the address below into your browser to connect with a link that has a variety of tips on how to pray the Rosary:

<https://catholic-link.org/pray-rosary-visual-guide/>

Parents and grandparents will find helpful information to instruct your children and perhaps enhance your own prayer practice.

**FREE ROSARIES ARE AVAILABLE ON THE BOOK RACK IN THE LOBBY OF THE CHURCH**

**THE FLOWERS AT THE ALTAR** this Sunday are given to the Greater Glory of God and in memory of your deceased loved ones. Thank you for your generous support of the 2024 Easter Flower collection!



6th Annual  
Immaculate Conception Parish School

# Golf Outing

Sunday, June 9, 2024  
Clarion Oaks Golf Club  
Registration at 8:00 a.m.  
Shotgun Start at 9:00 a.m.

*Sponsorship Opportunities Available!*

For more information or to become a sponsor  
Contact Julie Smith at  
icpsgolfouting@gmail.com or  
by phone at 814-590-4610

Other ways to help:  
**VOLUNTEER TO HELP**  
(sign-up sheets in the lobby of the church)

**BUY A 50/50 TICKET**  
(sold after masses for just \$5/ticket and you do  
not need to be present to win)

**PROMOTE THE EVENT**  
(tell your families, friends, co-workers  
and neighbors)

## MASS Intentions

**Monday, April 29 – Saint Catherine of Siena**

8:30 a.m. Penny McCleary  
(Amanda Stitzer and Family)

**Tuesday, April 30 – Saint Pope Pius V**

8:30 a.m. Bill, Martina, and Bernie Huefner  
(Jean and John Blachier)

**Wednesday, May 1 – Saint Joseph the Worker**

NO MASS

**Thursday, May 2 – Saint Athanasius**

**National Day of Prayer**

11:00 a.m. Bob Schwabenbauer (Freda Schwabenbauer)

**Friday, May 3 – Saints Philip and James**

*Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament  
begins after the 8:30 a.m. Mass.*

*Adoration will continue all morning and conclude with  
Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament at 12:10 p.m.*

8:30 a.m. Peter VanRuiten (Rosemary Van Ruiten —  
76th Wedding Anniversary)

**Saturday, May 4**

4:00 p.m. Don Weidner (The Delaney Family)

**Sunday, May 5 – Sixth Sunday of Easter**

8:30 a.m. Carl Siegel, Jr. (Lewis and Cathy Wagner)

8:30 a.m. **RADIO MASS** –  
Twila Walters (Virginia Martin)

11:00 a.m. For the People

**Readings for the week of April 28, 2024**

**Monday:** Acts 14:5-18/Ps 115:1-2, 3-4, 15-16/Jn 14:21-26

**Tuesday:** Acts 14:19-28/Ps 145:10-11, 12-13ab, 21  
/Jn 14:27-31a

**Wednesday:** Acts 15:1-6/Ps 122: 1-2, 3-4ab, 4cd-5  
/Jn 15:1-8


**Thursday:** Acts 15:7-21/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 10/Jn 15:9-11

**Friday:** 1 Cor 15:1-8/Ps 19:2-3, 4-5/Jn 14:6-14

**Saturday:** Acts 16:1-10/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 5/Jn 15:18-21

**Next Sunday:** Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48/Ps 98:1, 2-3,  
3-4 (see 2b)/1 Jn 4:7-10/Jn 15:9-17

**QUESTIONS of the WEEK  
FOR FAITH SHARING**



**Strengthening Your Faith**

[The vine grower] removed every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. (John 15:2)

**Adults:** When have you been “pruned” by your experiences in a way that led to greater abundance?

**Kids:** When have you felt stronger or better because you did something hard to help another person?

**CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN** ©LPi  
Question: What is the name of the small container used to transport the Eucharist to those sick and homebound?  
Answer: Pyx.

**CHILD PROTECTION AND  
CREATING SAFE ENVIRONMENTS**

**April is Child Abuse Prevention Month** — Recent statistics tell us one out of every ten children will be abused before they turn 18. 91% of sexual abuse is perpetrated by someone the child or the child’s family knows. This means that on every Sunday in our congregation there are people who have been abused and may continue to experience the pain of that abuse. Reaching out to those who have suffered from abuse is critical in bringing hope and the love of Christ to them. Assistance is available for victims/survivors of clergy sexual abuse by contacting the Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator, Dr. Gerard Tobin at 814-451-1521.



Offertory	April 20 - 21
Envelopes	\$ 7,887.50
Loose	1,062.00
Monthly	3,390.00
Online Giving	201.63
Votive	106.90
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**Money Counters Monday, April 29 — Team 3**

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