



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 5:30 p.m.

Weekdays - Consult the bulletin or phone the parish office

Church & School
814-226-8433

Parish Staff

Rev. B. LaMounte Sayers
Pastor
montysayers@hotmail.com

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Amy Bish
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Teresa Frederick
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Lori Cratty
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Caleigh Stout
School Office Coordinator
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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.



CHRISTMAS LITURGY SCHEDULE

Nativity of the Lord

Tuesday, December 24 – Christmas Eve

Vigil Mass - 4:00 p.m.
Mass at Night - 10:00 p.m.

Wednesday, December 25 – Christmas Day

Mass at Dawn - 8:30 a.m.
Mass During the Day - 11:00 a.m.

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Sunday, December 29

Anticipated Mass - Saturday at 4:00 p.m.
Sunday Morning - 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

THE SACRAMENT OF PENANCE is scheduled for the following dates in December (or by appointment):

- **Advent Communal Penance**
Sunday, December 15 at 3:00 p.m.
- **Saturday, December 21 at 3:00 p.m.**

PRAYER – FOR EVERYDAY AND EVERYBODY

Through the intercession of St. John the Baptist, help us to remember the least fortunate, and how caring for them shares in the caring of the beloved Christ-child. Bring Your generosity into our community. Amen.

QUESTIONS MOST CATHOLICS CAN'T ANSWER

More from [The Ultimate Catholic Quiz](#) (100 Questions Most Catholics Can't Answer) by Karl Keating.

Statues

- really shouldn't be used by Catholics, according to Exodus 20:4-5, which warns against "graven images".
- have scriptural support in Exodus 15:18.
- are prayed to by Catholics because this is a pious practice sanctioned by the Church.
- are no longer recommended for use in churches, according to Vatican II.
- none of the above.

Answer and more information on the opposite page.



FOOD PANTRY — The Community Action food pantry is seeking donations of "side fixings" to go with the Christmas hams they will distribute this season. They're looking for items such as mashed and scalloped potatoes, canned vegetables, canned fruit, stuffing mix, and anything else that completes a Christmas dinner. Also, to help keep the shelves stocked, the food pantry is looking for canned fruit and peanut butter. Please leave your donations in the designated containers in the lobby of the church. Thanks for your generosity!

MASS INTENTIONS FOR 2025

Requests for Masses for 2025 are now being accepted. Requests may be made by mail, email and mass request envelopes found in the lobby of the church. Requests are limited to **two (2)** per person you are requesting masses for. For the year following the death of a loved one, we can schedule three additional masses: a birthday or wedding anniversary and the first anniversary of the death. **For all other requests only one Saturday/Sunday mass may be scheduled.** Masses for the following occasions are not available: "Birthday Memorials", Christmas Eve and Day, Easter Sunday, Mother's Day and Father's Day. Keep in mind that you can remember your loved ones with a mass broadcast on Radio Station AM 1300 and FM 94.1. The suggested donation for a mass is \$10.00. The cost of a radio broadcast is \$45.00.

QUESTIONS of the WEEK FOR FAITH SHARING

The Joy of Kindness

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. (Philippians 4:4-5)

Adults: What might John the Baptist challenge you to do differently in your life?

Kids: Do you have extras that you can share with others this week?

GOSPEL MEDITATION — by Father John Muir ©LPI

On a bright Spring morning, a passerby once saw St. Francis of Assisi hoeing a row of beans and asked him, "What would you be doing right now if you knew this was the last day of your earthly life?" The Saint responded, "I'd keep hoeing this row of beans." Preparing for this world to end — whether by our death or by Jesus' glorious coming — invites us to live not in the past or the present, but deeply in the present moment.

This same point is on display in the simple advice given by the wild and eccentric John the Baptist. He speaks of the one who is to come who will baptize "with the Holy Spirit and fire" (Luke 3:16). Despite the bizarre awesomeness of this announcement, he tells his listeners to engage in the present moment with simple acts of justice and love as their preparation for Jesus' coming, sharing their clothes and food, eliminating greedy and underhanded practices, being content with their wages. It's so undramatic. But how many actually did it? We don't know. How many of us will commit ourselves to these types of humble and demanding practices in our lives? That's what we should be doing now in our present moment, not worrying about the future.

Advent challenge: Name one way you are doing the bare minimum towards others in your daily life. Or name something you are doing because you are not content with your financial situation. Pray: "Jesus, if it is your will, help me to stop doing these things this week. Help me prepare for your coming." Then make the appropriate changes.



LOTTERY CALENDARS

are still available from school families or in the school office. Calendars are \$20 giving you 366 chances to win in 2025! Simply buy the ticket. We take care of

watching the daily lotto numbers. You just watch your mailbox for a check with your winnings!

SCRIP GIFT CARDS are available all year round through the school office.

We thank you in advance for your generosity and support for our school. Let Immaculate Conception Parish School help you simplify your last-minute shopping.

ARE YOU A REGISTERED MEMBER OF THE PARISH? You may come to Mass every Sunday, but are you a registered member of Immaculate Conception Parish?

1. 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.
2. An adult child of registered parishioners, after graduation from college, during their military service, or after moving out of the area, is no longer a member of Immaculate Conception Parish.
3. In order to schedule a wedding or baptism at Immaculate Conception—or to obtain permission to be a godparent or Confirmation sponsor—you must be registered in this parish.
4. To schedule an appointment for registration or for more information call the parish office.



ANSWER TO “QUESTIONS MOST CATHOLICS CAN’T ANSWER”

- a. The standard Fundamentalist complaint—and false. The admonition is against praying to those images or to the false gods they represent.
- b. This is where the Lord instructs the Israelites to adorn the Ark of the Covenant with statues of angels. He seemed to have no problem with images, if they were used in the right way.
- c. We don’t pray to statues, but we pray to the saints represented by them and ask those saints to pray to God on our behalf. Similarly, we don’t pray to a crucifix, but we pray to Christ, who is depicted on the crucifix. The crucifix helps us to keep our minds on our Lord’s Passion and what he underwent to achieve our redemption. Similarly, images of saints—whether statues or painting or mosaics—help us to keep in mind the virtues at which those saints excelled and to think about trying to develop those virtues in ourselves.
- d. Vatican II said no such thing.
- e. Answer **b** is correct.



Monday, December 16

8:30 a.m. Libby Montana (Heather McHenry)

Tuesday, December 17

11:00 a.m. Ken Mechling (Virginia Martin)

Wednesday, December 18

— NO MASS —

Thursday, December 19

11:00 a.m. Gloria Jean Greenawalt (Parish Staff)

6:00 p.m.—7:00 p.m. Holy Hour

Exposition, Adoration, and Benediction

Friday, December 20

8:30 a.m. Allen Frampton (Betty Boroughs)

Saturday, December 21 – Saint Peter Canisius

4:00 p.m. Bruce Cherico

(Russell and Deanna Wieszczyk)

Sunday, December 22 – Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:30 a.m. Robert Selker (Kristin Selker)

8:30 a.m. **RADIO MASS** – Elwood Steele

(Lisa Fitschen and Family)

11:00 a.m. For the People

Readings for the week of December 15, 2024

Monday: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9 /Mt 21:23-27

Tuesday: Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17 /Mt 1:1-17

Wednesday: Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19 /Mt 1:18-25

Thursday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17 /Lk 1:5-25

Friday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/Lk 1:26-38

Saturday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21/Lk 1:39-45

Next Sunday: Mi 5:1-4a/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 (4) /Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45



Addition to the Prayer List:
Judith Beichner



Offertory	Nov. 30 - Dec. 1
Envelopes	\$7,204.00
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