



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
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Caleigh Stout
School Office Coordinator
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Greg Pedley
Buildings & Grounds Manager
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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.



"BLESSED ARE YOU AMONG WOMEN, AND BLESSED IS THE FRUIT OF YOUR WOMB." - LK 1:42

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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.



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.

YEAR END GIFTS TO OUR PARISH - Will you consider a special gift to Immaculate Conception Parish or School? Gifts can be deducted from your 2024 income tax form. Remember—in order for gifts to qualify for 2024, they must:

- Be delivered to the parish office no later than **Noon, December 31, 2024** or
- Postmarked December 31, 2024.
- Gifts of cash, real estate, life insurance, stocks, bonds or certificates of deposit can perpetuate your ideals. Please remember your parish in your will. Our legal title is: **Immaculate Conception Church.**



LOTTERY CALENDARS are still available after all masses in December. They may also be purchased from school families or in the school office. Calendars are \$20 giving you 366 chances to win in 2025! Simply buy the ticket. We will watch the daily lotto numbers. You just watch your mailbox for a check with your winnings!

A MESSAGE FROM FATHER MONTY – Where Do You Place Your Hope?

In his homily on December 8, Deacon Joe Glover offered this observation:

“Many of us are anxious and afraid. We look at the news on TV or on our phones and can be overwhelmed by the difficulties around us. In a divided nation, people continue to wonder what the new administration will do and how it will affect their lives. What challenges will be faced by the poor, the marginalized, the underprivileged, the unemployed? How will those who are looked on as the least of our brothers and sisters fair? The sick, the mentally unstable, the immigrant, the trafficked, the aged?”

His words spoke to my fear, but his focus was on hope:

Where do you place your hope?

In announcing **Jubilee 2025 – Pilgrims of Hope**, Pope Francis wrote: “We must fan the flame of hope that has been given us and help everyone to gain new strength and certainty by looking to the future with an open spirit, a trusting heart and far-sighted vision.”

I place my hope in the words the archangel Gabriel spoke to Mary over 2025 years ago, “...for nothing will be impossible for God” (Luke 1:37).

I place my hope in the words I am privileged to proclaim every Christmas morning, “And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father’s only Son, full of grace and truth ... From His fullness we have all received grace upon grace... (John 1:14, 16; Christmas Mass During the Day).

I place my hope in you and your family and in the crucial role you play in our parish mission: Inviting people to Christ ~ Uniting People with Christ ~ Igniting people for Christ. Your faithfulness to Sunday Mass and the sacraments, your generosity to the parish and school, your willingness to volunteer for parish and community organizations and events all enrich my hope.

As we prepare to celebrate the Eucharist on Christmas—and welcome visitors from out of town or other parishes, college students and other young adults—let us fan the flame of hope, gaining new strength from the Eucharist and entrusting our hearts to the Holy Spirit.

PICTURE THIS! We invite you to take pictures of your kids—or your whole family!—at your parish Church this Christmas. The Manger located in the shrine area of the church is a wonderful background for your group picture. What grandparent, aunt, or uncle wouldn’t love to go online Christmas morning and find a picture of you and your kids—toddlers, tweens and teens—on Christmas Day?



HOPE

CHRISTMAS WORD SCRAMBLE

Unscramble the letters on top of each set of boxes to form a new Christmas-related word.

Then, unscramble the bonus letters (those in the green boxes to discover the bonus solution.

bonus letters
↓

G I C T K O N S =

C A R P I F L E E =

Y I M N E C H =

S T E E M O L I T =

N A R S T O M E N =

S N E T L I =

H I G L E S =

N E S T S P E R =

L I N T K E W =

The Bonus Solution is:

CARRY THE PERSON OF JESUS
by Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

When Elizabeth was visited by Mary, her joy was overwhelming. Elizabeth recognized that Mary was carrying inside her the Messiah. She was honored to receive Mary, not just because of who Mary was herself, but also because of the One she had inside her.

We meet people every day in our lives. Some we know well, some are acquaintances, and others we may have never seen before. Yet all of them are made in the image of God and carry within them the person of Jesus. If we considered this more frequently, would we act more graciously toward each other? Mary gave birth to the Son of God so that we might be able to be adopted daughters and sons of God. If we thought of this more often, would we be so quick to dismiss someone or ignore him or her?

This time of year is filled with gatherings and parties for many of us. We also find ourselves rushing about getting ready for Christmas. There are so many people that cross our paths. Will we allow the Jesus in us to greet with joy the Jesus in them? Will we pause to offer a greeting or kind word? Instead of looking at them with human eyes, will we try to see them through the eyes of faith like Elizabeth. If not, what is all of this celebration and preparation about anyway?



Monday, December 23 – Saint John of Kanty

8:30 a.m. Mark Weaver
(Tricia and Mark Shingledecker)

Tuesday, December 24 – Christmas Eve

4:00 p.m. For the People
10:00 p.m. For the People

Wednesday, December 25 – The Nativity of the Lord

8:30 a.m. For the People
11:00 a.m. For the People

Thursday, December 26 – Saint Stephen

11:00 a.m. Deceased Family (Father Monty)

Friday, December 27 – Saint John the Apostle

11:00 a.m. Germaine Schill (Greg Ochs and M.J. Trice)

Saturday, December 28 – The Holy Innocents

4:00 p.m. Rev. Eldon Somers (Father Monty)

Sunday, December 29 – The Holy Family

8:30 a.m. For the People
8:30 a.m. **RADIO MASS** – Keith Martin, Sr.
(Virginia Martin)
11:00 a.m. Bob Donahue (The Delaney Family)

Readings for the week of December 22, 2024

Monday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14 /Lk 1:57-66
Tuesday: *Morning:* 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29/Lk 1:67-79
Wednesday:
Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 (2a) /Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25
Night: Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13 (Lk 2:11) /Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14
Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20
Day: Is 52:7-10/Heb 1:1-6/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 (3c) /Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14
Thursday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17/Mt 10:17-22
Friday: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97: 1-2, 5-6, 11-12/Jn 20:1a, 2-8
Saturday: 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8/Mt 2:13-18
Next Sunday: 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28/Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10 (see 5a)/1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24/Lk 2:41-52



Money Counters
Monday,
December 23
Team 1

Offertory	December 7 - 8
Envelopes	\$ 6,910.00
Loose	654.50
Monthly	4,020.00
Online Giving	790.75
Retirement Fund	3,540.00
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TOTAL	\$ 16,007.50

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Celebrate the season
 During this holiday season, we wish you all the best.

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