



# 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  
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Deacon Joseph Glover  
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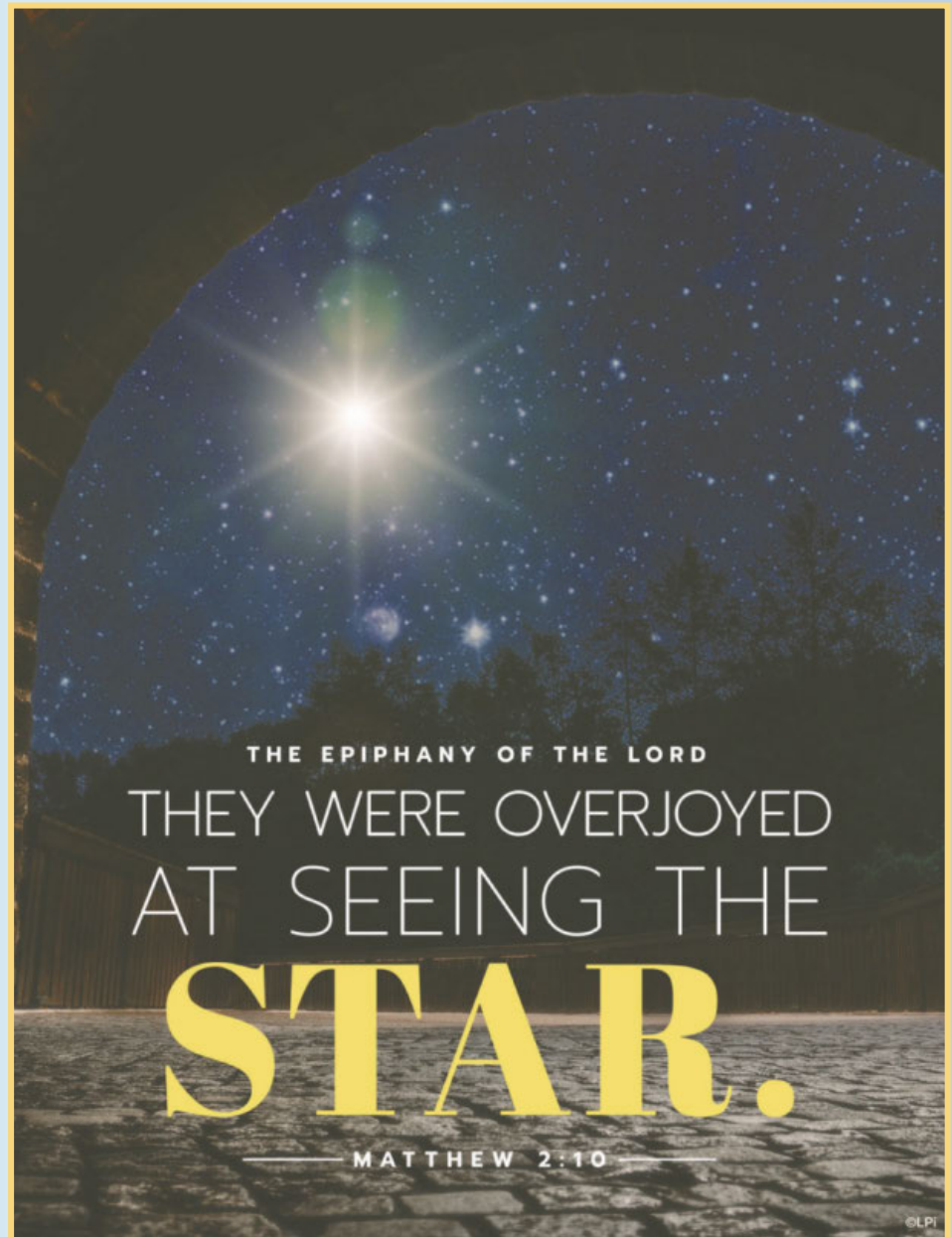
Caleigh Stout  
School Office Coordinator  
cstout@clarionichawks.net

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.



THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

THEY WERE OVERJOYED  
AT SEEING THE

# STAR.

MATTHEW 2:10

**REGARDING THE SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE:**

This is the time of year when couples begin making plans for the Sacrament of Matrimony. When making wedding plans please keep the following in mind:

- 1) NO date may be set for the ceremony until an initial meeting with the Pastor. In some cases (if the couple is under 19 years of age or if there has been a prior marriage by one or both parties) pre-marital assessment, professional counseling or an annulment may be required. This is a diocesan policy. Even though social halls, deejays and photographers are in great demand, it is far more costly to recover from a broken marriage if the best possible pre-marriage preparation process is not employed.
- 2) All couples must call for an appointment themselves. Great confusion results when other family members phone for the couple.
- 3) The minimum amount of time required for marriage preparation is six months.
- 4) The manner in which a baptized Catholic is to be married (or, the canonical form) is by a Catholic priest or deacon in a Catholic Church. Ceremonies out of doors or at other "romantic" locations are not permitted by Canon Law and diocesan policy.
- 5) Each couple is assessed a charge for church related costs that must be paid at the time of your rehearsal. The fee covers the FOCCUS pre-marital inventory, church cleaning following the ceremony, the officiant's and parish musician's fees. The details of these charges will be explained at the couple's first session with the priest or deacon. (The couple pays fees for their Pre-Cana workshop, Engagement Encounter weekend, and stipends for non-parish musicians, etc. separately.)
- 6) The goal of our marriage preparation process is not to help the couple plan for the perfect wedding. It is, rather, to assist them in establishing a life-long sacramental marriage with faithfulness to the Lord Jesus Christ and each other at the center of their life together. For more information, phone Father Monty.

**FOOD PANTRY** — Please help support the food pantry sponsored by Community Action. In January, Immaculate Conception Parish and School are looking for donations of

**Tooth Brushes, Tooth Paste,  
Soap, Shampoo, Sponges.**



Also, non-perishable food items are always appreciated. Please place donated items in the designated containers in the lobby of the church. Thank you for continuing to support this worthwhile cause.

**THE SACRAMENT OF PENANCE**

is scheduled for Saturday,  
January 18 – 3:00 p.m.  
(or by appointment)



**BLESSING OF THE HOME ON EPIPHANY** - Here is a wonderful Catholic tradition for you to repeat at home today. Using an ordinary piece of chalk, mark your main doorway like this: 20 + C + M + B + 25. The numerals refer to the New Year of the Lord, the four crosses represent the four seasons and the initials C, M, B stand for the traditional names of the three kings, Caspar, Melchior and Balthazar or the Latin phrase "*Christus Mansionem Bendeicat*" (*May Christ Bless This Dwelling Place*). Then, bless the doorways and rooms of your home—let each of the kids bless his or her bedroom—with holy water. (I bet you still have one of those small plastic "Holy Water" bottles you picked up one Easter!)

Then, gathered around your kitchen table, offer this prayer:

*Bless our home, Lord,  
with the peace and joy of your presence.*

*Heal all of our family  
who are in need of your touch.*

*Teach us how to offer hospitality to every guest,  
seeing your Face in every stranger and  
welcoming all who enter here as you*

*Welcome us into your Kingdom  
in this life and the next.*

*Amen.*

**WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO BE A SPONSOR FOR BAPTISM OR CONFIRMATION?**

Before you ask anyone *or* are asked to be a godparent or sponsor consider the following requirements:

- 1) You must be registered in the/a parish, attending Mass on Sundays and on Holy Days, and contributing to the support of the Church;
- 2) You must be at least 16 years of age and already confirmed;
- 3) If married – the marriage must be a valid Catholic marriage. Divorced persons are permitted to be sponsors (and always welcome to the Sacraments!) unless they have *remarried outside the Church*.
- 4) One godparent **must** be a Catholic and meet the requirements listed above. The other may be a baptized Catholic or a Christian from another denomination. The latter will be recorded in the baptismal registry as a "Christian Witness".
- 5) If the godparent or sponsor you choose is from another parish, a "sponsor certificate" from their home parish is required. If you need a "sponsor certificate", you must signify in writing that you fulfill the first requirement (above).
- 6) Any questions? Need a sponsor certificate? Call the parish office.

**EPIPHANY**

**(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC – THE ANSWER**

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Have you ever had an epiphany?

I'll confess that I've never spent much time reflecting on the term "epiphany." In my head, there has always been a strict separation of church and state when it comes to this word. I think of the religious feast of the Epiphany, when we celebrate the magi's encounter with the Christ Child, as totally distinct from our modern understanding of the ancient Greek word *epipháneia*, which means "manifestation" or "appearance."

"I've had an epiphany," I have said many times before, and what I mean is that I have come to a long-awaited realization. I have received the answer to a question which has perplexed me, perhaps troubled me. I now know what course of action I must take.

"Today is the Epiphany," I say to my children when we make a king cake and bring the little magi figures to our Nativity beneath the Christmas tree (which will, after today, be put back into storage, for the Christmas season has come to its fulfillment).

And I've always thought I meant I was saying two very different things.

But today, I ponder the journey of the magi, one that must have often been treacherous and uncomfortable. I think about their meeting with Herod, a situation that certainly was fraught with tension and fear. And I imagine the feeling in their hearts as they approached the young Messiah and fell to their knees. I think of the peace they must have felt. The new, vibrant awareness of what their own purpose was.

It was an epiphany for them — a discovery of truth. An answer.

It should be the same for us.

©LPi

**CHILD PROTECTION and CREATING SAFE ENVIRONMENTS – 3 Ways for Teens to Reboot**

Sending and receiving messages late at night can make it hard to fall asleep or interrupt sleep. Teens want to stay connected to friends, but the lack of sleep or interrupted sleep can affect everything from their mood to their sports performance. Here are 5 tips to follow at night that will help boost energy and focus in the morning.

1. Log off your messaging apps, social media and email at bedtime.
2. Turn off your phone when it's time for bed don't just set it to vibrate.
3. Get in the habit of powering off your devices – especially if they are in your room. Turn off all electronics, like laptops, tablets, TVs, and video game consoles. Blinking lights and glowing screens can make it harder to fall and stay asleep. Sticking to a cut-off curfew each night for your devices will give your brain some much needed tech-free downtime.

For additional resources visit

[www.eriesd.org/childprotection/](http://www.eriesd.org/childprotection/)

**PRAYER OF REJOICING** — Fill our hearts, Lord, with rejoicing as we seek and discover You. Your ways are full of wonder, glory, surprise, and joy. Amen. ©LPi



**Monday, January 6 – Saint André Bessette**

8:30 a.m. James Hartle (Chuck and Karla Beichner)

**Tuesday, January 7 – Saint Raymond of Penyafort**

8:30 a.m. Rose Carbone (Estate)

**Wednesday, January 8**

———— NO MASS ————

**Thursday, January 9**

11:00 a.m. Special Intention (Kim and Clay Kroh)

**Friday, January 10**

———— NO MASS ————

**Saturday, January 11**

4:00 p.m. Bob and Ron Schwabenbauer  
(Freda Schwabenbauer and Family)

**Sunday, January 12 – The Baptism of the Lord**

8:30 a.m. Jack Romito (Gary and Marilyn Deiger)

8:30 a.m. **RADIO MASS** – Patty Rapp  
(Virginia Martin)

11:00 a.m. For the People

**Readings for the week of January 5, 2025**

**Monday:** 1 Jn 3:22—4:6/Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a  
/Mt 4:12-17, 23-25

**Tuesday:** 1 Jn 4:7-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4, 7-8/Mk 6:34-44

**Wednesday:** 1 Jn 4:11-18/Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13/Mk 6:45-52

**Thursday:** 1 Jn 4:19—5:4/Ps 72:1-2, 14 and 15bc, 17  
/Lk 4:14-22a

**Friday:** 1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20/Lk 5:12-16

**Saturday:** 1 Jn 5:14-21/Ps 149:1-2, 3-4, 5 and 6a and 9b  
/Jn 3:22-30

**Next Sunday:** Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 104:1b-2, 3-4, 24-25,  
27-28, 29-30 (1)/Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7  
/Lk 3:15-16, 21-22

**QUESTIONS of the WEEK FOR FAITH SHARING**

*Overcoming Jealousy*

Then Herod sent the [magi] to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." (Matthew 2:8)

**Adults:** When have you been jealous or fearful of another person? When are such feelings harmful?

**Kids:** When have you been jealous because something good happened to another person instead of you? What is the problem with feeling that way?



**Money Counters**  
**Monday,**  
**January 6**  
**Team 3**

Offertory	December 21 - 22
Envelopes	\$ 6,350.00
Loose	546.00
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