



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

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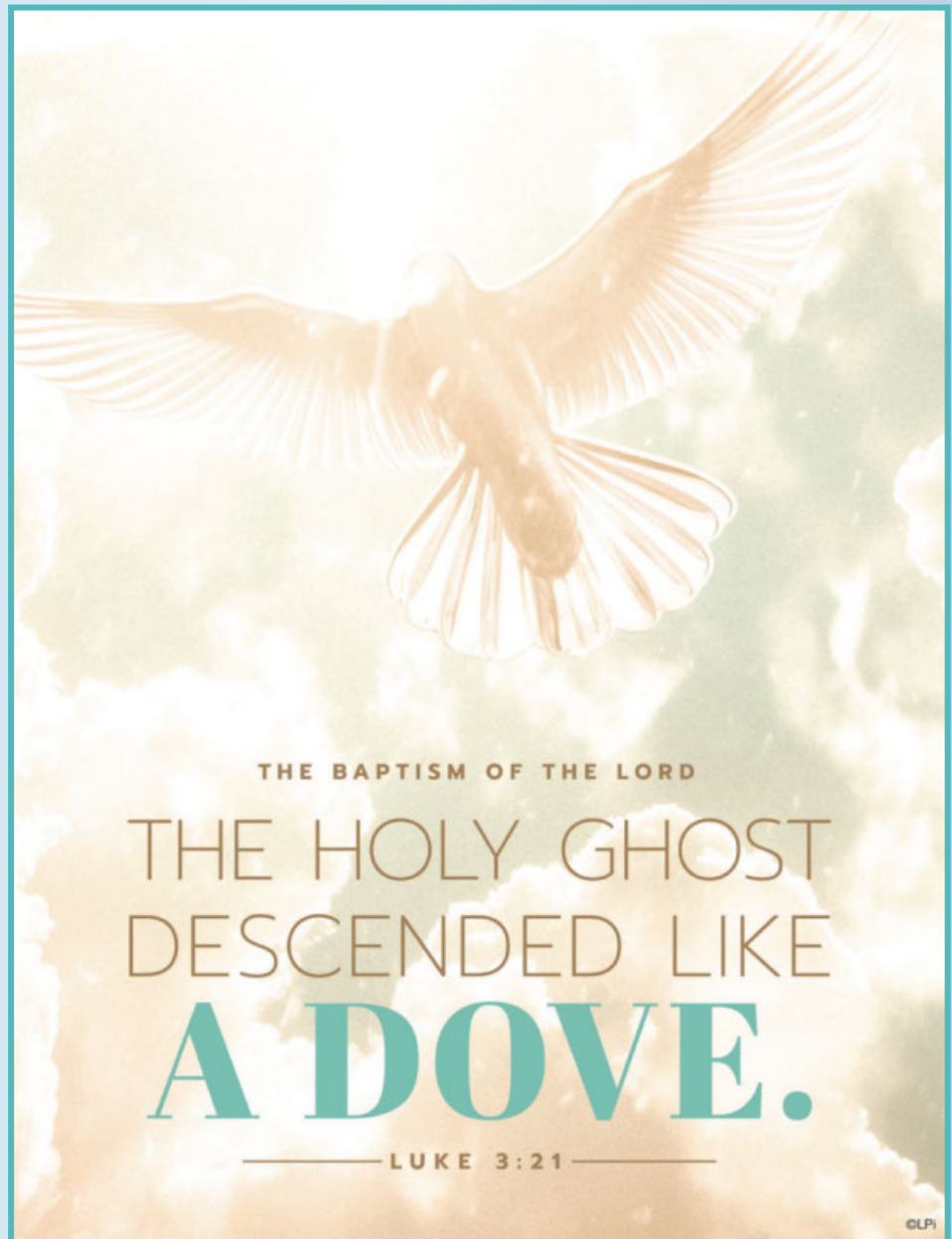
Caleigh Stout
School Office Coordinator
cstout@clarionichawks.net

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.





WHAT IS THE JUBILEE? — “Jubilee” is the name given to a particular year; the name comes from the instrument used to mark its launch. In this case, the instrument in question is the *yobel*, the ram's horn, used to proclaim the Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur). This (Jewish) holiday occurs every year, but it takes on

special significance when it marks the beginning of a Jubilee year. We can find an early indication of it in the Bible: a Jubilee year was to be marked every 50 years, since this would be an “extra” year, one which would happen every seven weeks of seven years, i.e., every 49 years (cf. Leviticus 25:8-13). Even though it wasn't easy to organize, it was intended to be marked as a time to re-establish a proper relationship with God, with one another, and with all of creation, and involved the forgiveness of debts, the return of misappropriated land, and a fallow period for the fields.

Quoting the prophet Isaiah, the Gospel of Luke describes Jesus' mission in this way: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord,” (Luke 4: 18-19; cf. Isaiah 61:1-2). Jesus lives out these words in his daily life, in his encounters with others and in his relationships, all of which bring about liberation and conversion.

In 1300, Pope Boniface VIII called the first Jubilee, also known as a “Holy Year,” since it is a time in which God's holiness transforms us. The frequency of Holy Years has changed over time: at first, they were celebrated every 100 years; later, in 1343 Pope Clement VI reduced the gap between Jubilees to every 50 years, and in 1470 Pope Paul II made it every 25 years. There have also been “extraordinary” Holy Years: for example, in 1933 Pope Pius XI chose to commemorate the 1900th anniversary of the Redemption, and in 2015 Pope Francis proclaimed the Year of Mercy as an extraordinary jubilee. The way in which Jubilee Years are marked has also changed through the centuries: originally the Holy Year consisted of a pilgrimage to the Roman Basilicas of St. Peter and St. Paul, later other signs were added, such as the Holy Door. By participating in the Holy Year, one is granted a plenary indulgence.

The aspects, or characteristics, of the holy year are:
**PILGRIMAGE, HOLY DOOR, RECONCILIATION,
 PRAYER, LITURGY, PROFESSION OF FAITH, and
 INDULGENCES.**

Here's an explanation of the first two from the website
<https://www.iubilaem2025.va/en.html>

PILGRIMAGE — The jubilee calls for us to set out on a journey and to cross boundaries. When we travel, we do not only change place physically, but we also change ourselves. Hence, it is important to prepare ourselves well, to plan the route, and learn about the destination. In this sense, the

Jubilee pilgrimage begins before the start of the journey itself: the starting point is the decision to set out. The etymology of the word “pilgrimage” is quite telling and has undergone little change in meaning over the years. The word comes from the Latin “*per ager*,” meaning “across the fields,” or perhaps from “*per eger*” meaning “border crossing”: both possible origins point to the distinctive aspect of undertaking a journey.

In the Bible, Abraham is described as a person on a journey: “Go forth from your land, your relatives, and from your father's house” (Genesis 12:1). With these words Abraham begins his adventure, which ends in the Promised Land, where he is remembered as a “wandering Aramean” (Deuteronomy 26:5). Jesus' ministry can also be seen as a journey, from Galilee to the Holy City of Jerusalem ... “As the time drew near when Jesus would be taken up to heaven, he made up his mind and set out on his way to Jerusalem.” (Luke 9:51). Christ himself calls His disciples to walk this road, and even today Christians are those who follow him and set out after Him.

The journey takes place gradually: there are various routes to choose from and places to discover; it is made up of particular sets of circumstances, moments of catechesis, sacred rites and liturgies. Along the way our traveling companions enrich us with new ways of understanding things and fresh perspectives. Contemplation of creation is also part of the journey and helps us to realize that care for creation “is an essential expression of our faith in God and our obedience to his will” (Pope Francis, Letter for the Jubilee 2025). Pilgrimage is an experience of conversion, of transforming one's very being to conform it to the holiness of God. During the pilgrimage, one also shares in the experience of those who, for various reasons, are forced to leave their homelands to seek a better life for themselves and their family.



THE HOLY DOOR — From a symbolic viewpoint, the Holy Door takes on a special significance: it is the most powerful sign of the Jubilee, since the ultimate aim of the pilgrim is to pass through it. The opening of the door by the Pope constitutes the official beginning of the Holy Year. Originally, there was only one door, at the Basilica of St. John Lateran, which is the cathedral of the Bishop of Rome. Later, to allow as many pilgrims as possible to take part in the Jubilee experience, the other Roman Basilicas also opened their own holy doors.

In crossing the threshold of the Holy Door, the pilgrim is reminded of the passage from chapter 10 of St John's gospel: “I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture.” Passing through the Holy Door expresses the decision to follow and be guided by Jesus, who is the Good Shepherd. The door is a passageway that ushers the pilgrim into the interior of a church. For the Christian community, a church is not only a sacred space, to be approached with respect, with appropriate behavior and dress code, but it is a symbol of the communion that binds every believer to Christ: it is a (continued at top of next page)

place of encounter and dialogue, of reconciliation and peace which awaits every pilgrim, the Church is essentially the place of the community of the faithful.

In Rome, this experience takes on a special significance because of the special links between the Eternal City and Saints Peter and Paul, the apostles who founded the Christian community in Rome and whose teachings and example are models for the universal Church. The tombs of Saints Peter and Paul are located in Rome, they were martyred here; and together with the catacombs, these sacred sites are places of continuous spiritual inspiration.

"DEAR SISTER, DEAR BROTHER, THE 'HOLY DOOR' OF GOD'S HEART LIES OPEN BEFORE YOU. JESUS, GOD-WITH-US, IS BORN FOR YOU, FOR US, FOR EVERY MAN AND WOMAN. WITH HIM, JOY FLOURISHES; WITH HIM, LIFE CHANGES; WITH HIM, HOPE DOES NOT DISAPPOINT."

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.**

Non-perishable food items are also always appreciated. Place donated items in the designated containers in the lobby of the church. Thank you for your generosity in continuing to support our local food pantry.

THE SACRAMENT OF PENANCE —
 Saturday, January 18 at 3:00 p.m. (or by appointment)

**“BEING PILGRIMS OF HOPE
 Living Catholic Social Teaching”
 Overnight Retreat**

**Olmsted Manor Conference Center, Ludlow PA
 Feb. 4-5, 2025 noon to noon**

**You are invited by Sister Marian and Sister Tina of
 Catholic Rural Ministry
 to join them and guest speaker,
 Elizabeth Slaby, Dir. of Catholic Charities
 Office of Social Justice and Life, Diocese of Erie**

**Come, “fan the flame of hope” with us
 through prayer, reflection, presentations and sharing.**

**Please register asap - deadline by Mon., Jan. 27, 2025
 by emailing
 Sr. Tina at srtinag@gmail.com
 with your name and phone number
 Send \$30 non refundable registration fee to:
 Catholic Rural Ministry
 7 Pulaski St., Oil City PA 16301**

**Total retreat cost, which includes
 4 home-cooked meals,
 room, and the presentation
 is \$60 each for double room, \$75 for single.**

MASS Intentions

Monday, January 13 – Saint Hilary

———— NO MASS ————

Tuesday, January 14

11:00 a.m. Sal Mazzocchi (Dave and Mary Kay Steele)

Wednesday, January 15

———— NO MASS ————

Thursday, January 16

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

Friday, January 17 – Saint Anthony

———— NO MASS ————

Saturday, January 18 – January 18 - 25 is the

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

4:00 p.m. Carl Hepler (Bryan and Teri Wagner)

Sunday, January 19 – Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30 a.m. Dennis and Dawn Kidney
 (Children and Grandchildren)

8:30 a.m. **RADIO MASS** – Deceased Mothers and
 Fathers of Immaculate Conception

11:00 a.m. For the People

Readings for the week of January 12, 2025

Monday: Heb 1:1-6/Ps 97:1 and 2b, 6 and 7c, 9
 /Mk 1:14-20

Tuesday: Heb 2:5-12/Ps 8:2ab and 5, 6-7, 8-9/Mk 1:21-28


Wednesday: Heb 2:14-18/Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8-9
 /Mk 1:29-39

Thursday: Heb 3:7-14/Ps 95:6-7c, 8-9, 10-11/Mk 1:40-45


Friday: Heb 4:1-5, 11/Ps 78:3 and 4bc, 6c-7, 8/Mk 2:1-12

Saturday: Heb 4:12-16/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15/Mk 2:13-17

Next Sunday: Is 62:1-5/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 7-8, 9-10 (3)
 /1 Cor 12:4-11/Jn 2:1-11



Addition to the Prayer List:
 Angelo Gehenio



WORSHIPPING GOD THROUGH GIVING

Offertory	Dec. 28 - 29	Jan. 4 - 5
Envelopes	\$ 6,743.00	\$ 6,214.00
Loose	436.00	448.00
Monthly	191.00	5,584.00
Christmas	11,872.00	
Solemnity of Mary		2,877.00
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