



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. LaMunte Sayers
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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.



Immaculate Conception Parish School's 11th Annual

PURSES AND BLING

MARCH 1, 2025



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For tickets and more information about this year's Purses and Bling, scan the QR code above or go to the parish website to access the link for ticket sales.

QUESTIONS of the WEEK FOR FAITH SHARING

Time Accepting Responsibility

Jesus unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor."
(Luke 4:17b-18a)

Adults: What do you believe that the anointing you received at baptism requires you to do?

Kids: What could you do this week for someone who has less than you?



AROUND THE AREA — There will be a **Pork & Sauerkraut Dinner** on February 8 from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm at the St. Joseph Social Hall in Lucinda. Mac 'n cheese and hotdogs will be available for the kids. Prices are:
Adults — \$10.00
11 & under — \$5.00
Preschoolers — Free

SPECIAL RITES SET FOR FEBRUARY

THE FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD – Falling 40 days after Christmas, this feast is on Sunday in 2025. Recalling Simon's declaration that the Christ Child is "A revealing light to the Gentiles, the glory of your people Israel", the Mass on February 2nd begins with the blessing of lit candles carried by the faithful and the candles that are used in the ceremonies of the liturgical year. Why not bring the candles you use in your home—dining table tapers, jar candles, birthday candles, votives and tea lights—to Mass to be blessed? Blessed Candles for home use will be available for purchase. February 2 is also the World Day of Consecrated Life—a worldwide day of prayer for religious women and men.

THE ORDER FOR BLESSING THROATS ON THE FEAST OF ST. BLASE – Since February 3 falls on a Monday in 2025, the liturgy for the Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time takes precedence. For pastoral reasons, the traditional blessing of throats in memory of Saint Blase will take the place of the final blessing at Sunday Mass. **There will be no individual blessing of throats on Sunday, February 2 or Monday, February 3.**

SACRAMENT OF THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK – The Holy Father has designated February 11—the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes—as World Day of the Sick. It is, in the words of Saint John Paul II, "a special time of prayer and sharing, of offering one's suffering for the good of the Church and of reminding us to see in our sick brothers and sisters the face of Christ who, by suffering, dying and rising achieved the salvation of human kind."

The Anointing of the Sick will be administered on Tuesday, February 11 at the 11:00 a.m. Mass.



EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT will follow the 8:30 a.m. Mass on February 7, the first Friday of the month. Adoration will continue all morning concluding with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament at 12:10 p.m. The focus of our prayer is the Pope's

Worldwide Prayer Network intention for February 2025: **For Vocations To The Priesthood And Religious Life.** Let us pray that the ecclesial community might welcome the desires and doubts of those young people who feel a call to serve Christ's mission in the priesthood and religious life.

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

- Saturday, February 1 at 3:00 p.m.
- Thursday, February 6 after the 11:00 a.m. Mass
- Saturday, February 15 at 3:00 p.m.



2024 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS AVAILABLE –

If you would like to receive a statement for your 2024 offertory contributions, please email abish@icclarion.org or call 814-226-8433 ext. 100.



Continuing our look at the aspects of the holy year, this week we'll delve into **PRAYER**.

PRAYER — There are many reasons and ways to pray, but at the root of prayer is always the desire to be open to God's presence and His offer of love. It is the Spirit of the Son that calls the Christian community to prayer and allows each person to return to the Father. It was Jesus who entrusted His disciples with the Lord's Prayer, which is commented on by the Catechism of the Catholic Church (cf. CCC 2759-2865).

The Christian tradition also offers other texts, such as the Hail Mary, that can help to find words to address God: "By a living transmission—Tradition—the Holy Spirit in the Church teaches the children of God to pray" (CCC 2661).

The prayer opportunities on the journey show that the pilgrim holds the path to God "in his heart" (Psalm 83:6). Refreshment is also provided by the various stops and opportunities for rest along the way, which are often organized around shrines, sanctuaries, and other places filled with spiritual significance, where one realizes that — before us and alongside us — other pilgrims have also passed along and traveled those same roads. Indeed, the paths leading to Rome have often been trod by many saints.

THESE EVIL DAYS

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

"Alas, that these evil days should be mine."

If you've ever seen "The Lord of the Rings," you might recognize this quote from "The Two Towers." The words are spoken by King Theoden at the grave of his only son and heir, as Theoden contemplates the coming war for Middle Earth, a war which has already claimed the life of his son, a war he wants no part of, a war that seems utterly hopeless and unwinnable.

These evil days.

You don't have to be a fantasy enthusiast or even a Tolkien fan to identify with Theoden here. We have all experienced this same feeling of despair, perhaps increasingly in this age of technology and social media, when the ills of the whole world — violence, injustice, moral disorder and chaos — are in our faces, on our phones, looming over our days.

But when we despair like this, we forget an important truth: this is the time of fulfillment, and we are lucky enough to be living through it.

Yes, the world is broken. It was broken two thousand years ago, too, when Jesus stood up in the synagogue on the Sabbath and read the words of the prophet Isaiah: "He has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives...and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord."

Jesus didn't come to fix the brokenness of the world. He came to fix our brokenness. He offers us not relief from the trials of life, but an answer to the question of how to live in joy, in love and in purpose in the midst of these evil days.

©LPi

MASS Intentions

Monday, January 27 – Saint Angela Merici

— NO MASS —

Tuesday, January 28 – Saint Thomas Aquinas

11:00 a.m. Joan Songer (Anonymous)

Wednesday, January 29

— NO MASS —

Thursday, January 30

11:00 a.m. Mary Kay Hartle (Bob and Kathy Smerkar)

Friday, January 31 – Saint John Bosco

— NO MASS —

Saturday, February 1

4:00 p.m. Penny McCleary

(Amanda Stitzer and Family)

Sunday, February 2 – The Presentation of the Lord

World Day for Consecrated Life

8:30 a.m. Christmas Benefactors (Father Monty)

8:30 a.m. **RADIO MASS** – Don Kahle
(Rose Marie Kahle and Family)

11:00 a.m. For the People

Readings for the week of January 26, 2025

Monday: Heb 9:15, 24-28/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4, 5-6
/Mk 3:22-30

Tuesday: Heb 10:1-10/Ps 40:2 and 4ab, 7-8a, 10, 11
/Mk 3:31-35

Wednesday: Heb 10:11-18/Ps 110:1, 2, 3, 4/Mk 4:1-20

Thursday: Heb 10:19-25/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6
/Mk 4:21-25

Friday: Heb 10:32-39/Ps 37:3-4, 5-6, 23-24, 39-40
/Mk 4:26-34

Saturday: Heb 11:1-2, 8-19/Lk 1:69-70, 71-72, 73-75
/Mk 4:35-41

Next Sunday: Mal 3:1-4/Heb 2:14-18/Ps 24:7, 8, 9, 10
/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22-32

"BEING PILGRIMS OF HOPE Living Catholic Social Teaching"

Sisters Marian and Tina from Catholic Rural Ministry
along with guest speaker Elizabeth Slaby,
Director of Catholic Charities,
Diocese of Erie's Office of Social Justice and Life,
invite you to

"Fan the flame of hope" with them through
prayer, reflection, presentations and sharing.

This is an overnight retreat at
Olmsted Manor Conference Center, Ludlow PA
Feb. 4-5, 2025 noon to noon

Please register asap - deadline by Mon., Jan. 27, 2025

Contact Sr. Tina at rtinag@gmail.com
Total retreat cost is \$60/person for a double room or \$75
for a single room. The cost includes
4 home-cooked meals, room, and the presentation

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