



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. Jason Feigh
Pastor

jfeigh@eriercd.org

Deacon Joseph Glover
jglover@eriercd.org

Amy Bish
Office Manager
abish@icclarion.org

Teresa Frederick
Faith Formation Director
tfrederick@icclarion.org

Linda Summerville
Adult Faith Formation Director
lsummerville@icclarion.org

Laura Lauer
Principal
llauer@clarionichawks.net

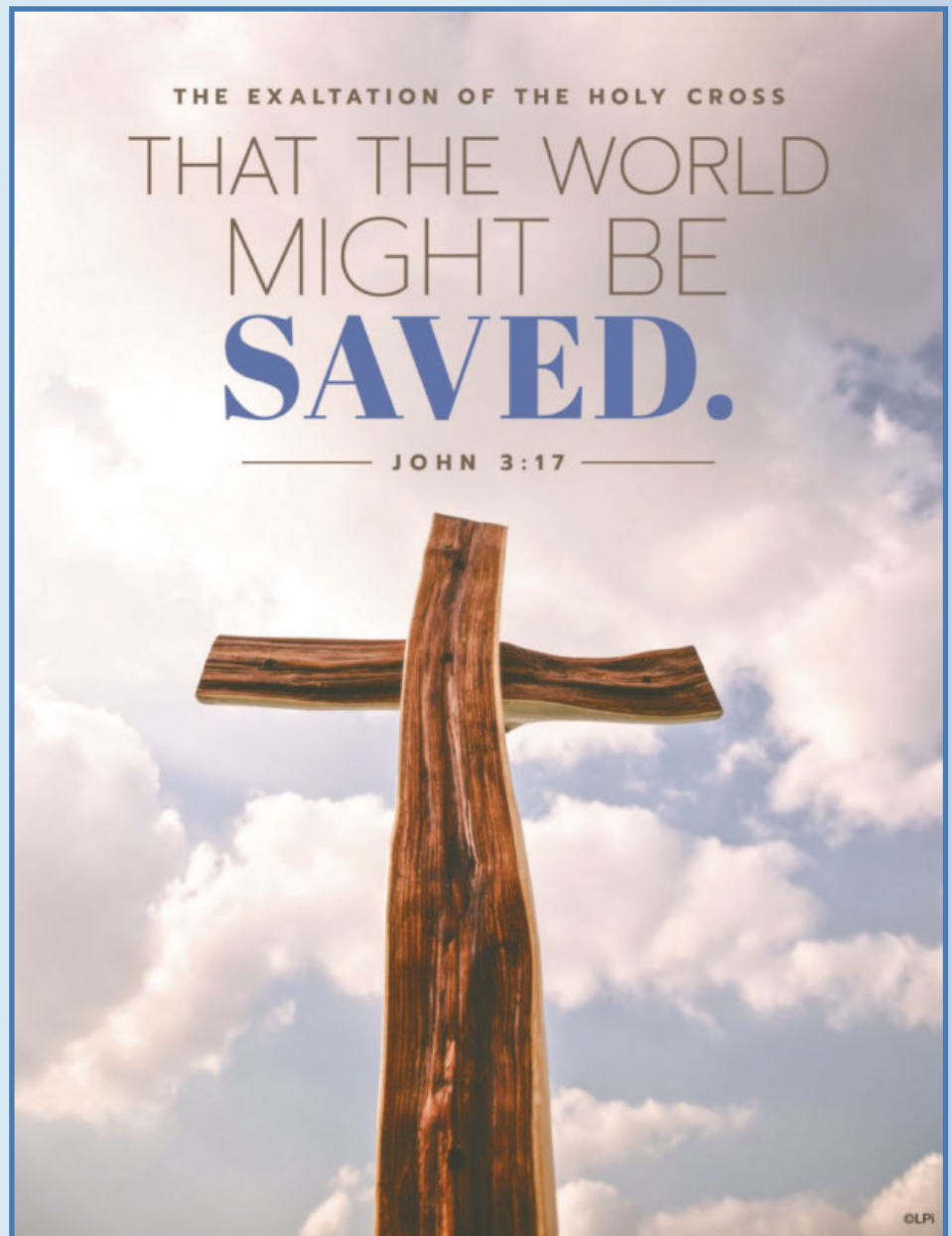
Caleigh Stout
School Office Coordinator
cstout@clarionichawks.net

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.



A MESSAGE FROM BISHOP PERSICO – The Bishop writes from Erie about the Catholic Education collection.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I am writing to thank you for your generous support of Catholic education in the past. I also ask you to continue your generosity during the weekend of **September 20-21** when we will conduct the Catholic Education Collection in our diocese.

This annual special collection supports lifelong education and faith formation opportunities for everyone throughout our entire diocese. We have many reasons to be proud of the faith formation occurring at all levels - from parish religious education to Catholic schools, from baptismal instruction to adult faith formation and OCIA. We are teaching the truths of the Catholic faith and forming disciples.

Half of the funds raised from this collection remain in your parish to support local education and faith formation programs. The other half supports diocesan faith formation initiatives, tuition assistance for Catholic school students and educator leadership development. A small portion also supports The Catholic University of America.

Please generously support this collection. Your gift to the Catholic Education Collection renews the very heart of the Church as we strive to carry out our mission to teach the Christian faith to each new generation. Contributions can be made directly at your parish or online at <https://www.eriescd.org/cec.html>. Be assured of my prayers for you and your family.

With every best wish, I remain,
Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ The Most Reverend Lawrence T. Persico, J.C.L.
Bishop of Erie

BECOMING CATHOLIC

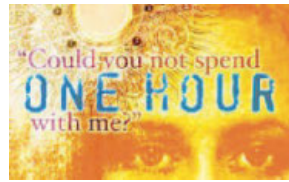
JOURNEY OF FAITH – Are you interested in becoming Catholic? Do you know someone who is interested in the Catholic faith?

Would you like to talk to someone who can answer your questions about the process? The **BECOMING CATHOLIC** (Order of Christian Initiation for Adults) program can help regardless of where you are in your faith journey. For more information, email Linda Summerville at lsummerville@icclarion.org



THE FOOD PANTRY – Please help support the food pantry sponsored by Community Action. For the month of September, the focus will be on **Mac-n-Cheese**.

But, as always, other donations are more than welcome. Cereal, pasta, spaghetti sauce, canned fruit, peanut butter, soup, canned meats and canned vegetables need to be replenished regularly. Your donations may be placed in the designated containers in the lobby of the church. Thank you for your continued support and your generosity!



ONE HOUR – Need an evening of quiet reflection and an opportunity to spend time with Jesus? On the third Thursday of each month (September 18, this month), Deacon Joe has a Holy Hour. It begins at 6:00 p.m. with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Adoration. The Holy Hour will conclude with Benediction at 7:00 pm. For more information, contact Deacon Joe by email at jglover@eriescd.org.



BAPTISM FORMATION SESSIONS are planned for parents who are requesting Baptism for their child over

the next few months. Parents can choose to attend one of the two sessions scheduled for Sunday, September 28 **OR** Sunday, October 26. The sessions are from 9:30 a.m. to noon. Attendance at one session is required for Baptism at Immaculate Conception parish.

To schedule attendance at one of the Baptism Formation sessions or if you have questions, email Linda Summerville at lsummerville@icclarion.org

GOSPEL MEDITATION –

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross John 3:13-17

One of my favorite movies is the 1991 comedy What About Bob? Bill Murray plays a troubled, paranoid hypochondriac named Bob Wiley who innocently but annoyingly hounds Dr. Leo Marvin, played by Richard Dreyfuss. Bob is paralyzed by his fear of, well, everything, and is convinced the psychologist can heal him. But Dr. Marvin's failed attempts to heal Bob end up driving the doctor to attempt to murder Bob. He fails. The surprise is that, having faced death head on, Bob is suddenly healed. He attributes his healing to Dr Marvin for break-through "death therapy." In facing the cause of his deepest illness and dysfunction, Bob is healed.

Underneath this light-hearted comedy is a dead-serious resonance with this week's feast: the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. Christ is lifted up on the cross to force us to face the truth of sin and death. In that reckoning we find healing. Like Moses' snake on a pole, the cross says: this is what is causing your sickness – rebellion, disobedience, sin. Look at it! Don't run from it. Now seeing it exposed, we see life. We see our physician mercifully healing us. In this sense, we are all like Bob Wiley. The "death therapy" of the cross is our only hope for healing.

This week I invite you to "exalt the cross." If you don't have one in your house, get one. Use it for prayer. Gaze on it frequently. It teaches us to not be afraid. It heals us.

— Father John Muir

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CEMETERY MANAGER NEEDED — Immaculate Conception Cemetery Association is still seeking a Cemetery Manager. Please visit the parish website for details about the duties of this position and how to apply.

Daily Prayer Versus Mass?

Question: I have a friend who says she doesn't need to attend Mass because she prays to God every day. What are your thoughts on this justification?

Answer: If the only reason for going to church were to talk to God, your friend might be right. Prayer is not something limited to a physical place or even a holy place. If the sole purpose of the Church were prayer, it would be a narrow purpose indeed. The Church is a community of believers, formed by "one Lord, one faith, one Baptism." It is an outward sign of our faith in God instituted by Christ, and the purpose of the Church is to give us grace, that is, a share in God's life.

Coming to Mass is not really for God's sake, but for ours. If we believe that Jesus is truly present in the holy Eucharist, then we will want to be in his presence. We will want to be fed by him. Our daily prayer and good works are strengthened by our authentic encounter with our Lord. For Catholics, it is at Mass that we celebrate the source and summit of our faith. If this is true, why would we ever stay away?
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QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK FOR FAITH SHARING

Exaltation of the Cross

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life. (John 3:16)

Adults: What is something you can give up this week to make more time for prayer or service?

Kids: Have you ever had to give something up (sacrifice)? Was it hard?

MASS Intentions

Monday, September 15 – Our Lady of Sorrows

7:30 a.m. James Hartle (Judy Hartle and Family)

Tuesday, September 16 – Saints Pope Cornelius**and Cyprian**

8:30 a.m. Deceased Members of the
Colantonio and Fletcher Families
(John and Paulette Colantonio)

Wednesday, September 17 – Saint Robert Bellarmine**and Saint Hildegard of Bingen**

7:30 a.m. Donna Shelatree
(John and Paulette Colantonio)

Thursday, September 18

8:30 a.m. Jim and Rose Selker
(Lee and Linda Dechant)

6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Holy Hour – Exposition, Adoration
and Benediction

Friday, September 19 – Saint Januarius

7:30 a.m. Father Monty Sayers
(Mark and Tricia Shingledecker)

Saturday, September 20 – Saints Andrew Kim Tae-gŏn**and Paul Chŏng Ha-sang and companions**

4:00 p.m. Kenneth Mechling
(Dorothy Mechling and Family)

Sunday, September 21 –**Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

8:30 a.m. For the People

8:30 a.m. **RADIO MASS** – Father Monty Sayers
(Mary Lou Zacherl)

11:00 a.m. Cathy Schrecengost (Yvonne Perry)

Readings for the week of September 14, 2025

Monday: 1 Tm 2:1-8/Ps 28:2, 7, 8-9/Jn 19:25-27 or
Lk 2:33-35

Tuesday: 1 Tm 3:1-13/Ps 101:1b-2ab, 2cd-3ab, 5, 6
/Lk 7:11-17

Wednesday: 1 Tm 3:14-16/Ps 111:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Lk 7:31-35

Thursday: 1 Tm 4:12-16/Ps 111:7-8, 9, 10/Lk 7:36-50

Friday: 1 Tm 6:2c-12/Ps 49:6-7, 8-10, 17-18, 19-20
/Lk 8:1-3

Saturday: 1 Tm 6:13-16/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5/Lk 8:4-15

Next Sunday: Am 8:4-7/Ps 113:1-2, 4-6, 7-8 (see 1a, 7b)
/1 Tm 2:1-8/Lk 16:1-13 or 16:10-13

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TRIUMPH OF THE CROSS

THE SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

is scheduled for
every Saturday
from 3:00 pm to 3:45 pm



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