

# IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY

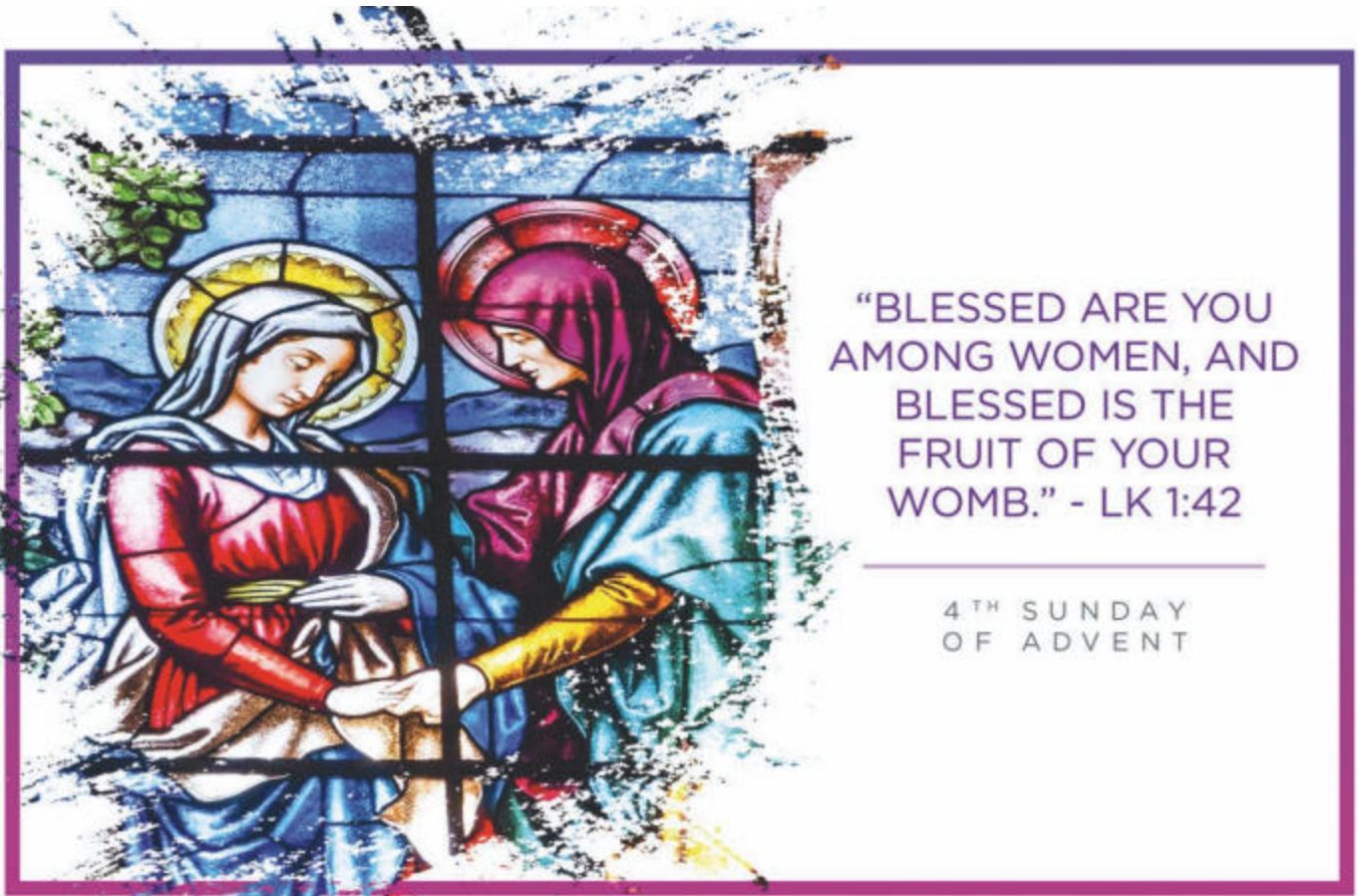
MERCER, PENNSYLVANIA

## *Maranatha!*

Welcome!

We are inching ever closer to Christmas day, the day that we celebrate the realization of the Incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Light of the World. We must realize that God is in our midst.

Christians often refer to Jesus as the “Prince of Peace”. We must never stop calling out to God to be generous in bestowing peace upon his people. There is so much noise, so much discord, so much confusion, so much distraction. Here we worship the One Who Is and Is to come.



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**DECEMBER 19, 2021**

# THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

*How can we help you?*

## Sacraments

### RECONCILIATION

Saturday 6:00 PM & by appointment.

### BAPTISM

By individual appointment. Baptism is celebrated during the weekend Liturgies.

### MATRIMONY

6 months preparation required.

### ANOINTING OF SICK

If you or a loved one are sick, facing surgery or are in any health need, please contact the Parish Office to arrange for the celebration of the Anointing of the Sick.

### HOMEBOUND & NURSING HOME

Monthly visits by Pastor & Eucharistic Ministers. Celebration of the Mass:

#### Avalon Springs:

10:30 AM - 3rd Friday of the month.

#### Countryside:

10:30 AM - 4th Friday of the month.

### Hospitalized

Please contact the Parish Office for pastoral visit.

## Faith Formation

**Youth:** Gr. 1-11 Sunday 9:00-10:15 AM

**Adult: R.C.I.A./Adult Ed.** - as scheduled

## Social Services

### SHARING SHED FOOD PANTRY

2nd & 4th Saturdays: 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM

**AA:** Tues. at 7:30 PM (Gallagher Hall)

**AA:** Wed. at 8:00 PM (Gallagher Hall)

**AI Anon:** Wed. at 8:00 PM (Learning Center)

### PRAYER REQUESTS

Mass Intentions: 724-662-2999.

Prayer Chain: Janice: 724-977-7860

e-mail: [jdl59@verizon.net](mailto:jdl59@verizon.net)

## Immaculate Heart of Mary

100 Penn Avenue

Mercer, PA 16137

Phone: 724-662-2999

Fax: 724-662-5094

Office Email: [ihm@zoominternet.net](mailto:ihm@zoominternet.net)

Website: [ihmcmrcer.com](http://ihmcmrcer.com)



Give Online: [ihmcmrcer.weshareonline.org](http://ihmcmrcer.weshareonline.org)

Church Office Hours:

Monday - Thursday 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

The Most Reverend Lawrence T. Persico

Bishop of Erie

1-800-374-3723

Very Reverend Matthew Kujawinski V.F.

Pastor

Dean, Sharon Deanery

Administrator, Office of Worship

[fr.matt@zoominternet.net](mailto:fr.matt@zoominternet.net)

Barbara Kehlbeck

Coordinator of Faith Formation

Marge McGinnis,

Business Manager

Lou Ann Zitko

Secretary

## IHM PRAYER INTENTIONS



Chuck Leydic

Marianne Shipton

Louise Hawrylak

Anthony Livorse

Bill Viselli

Bob McGhee

Don Kremm

Amy Packard

Jim Kwaiser

Brian S.

Albert Casacia

Judy Zuzack

Donald Rabold

Shirley Ann Whelan

Marion Grace Blough

Phillip Steigerwald

Leona Millie Hart

Diana Hess

Brendan Minnock

Larry Hines

Emilia Blanchfield

Martha Rupert

Terri Chaney

Bailey Helch

Rita Spirko

Andrew G.

Abigail Joy Campbell

Juliane Vurell

Peggy Cotton

Dot & Joe

To be included in our prayer chain, call Janice at 724-977-7860, or the rectory at 724-662-2999.

*Stewardship of Time, Talent, and Treasure*

**MINISTERS OF THE ALTAR**

**ALTAR SERVERS**

None Scheduled At This Time

**LECTORS**

18 Dec 5:00 pm - T. Krupa  
 19 Dec 8:00 am - M. Gutowski  
 10:30 am - B. Sajewski  
 24 Dec 5:00 pm - J. McCracken  
 25 Dec 12:00 am - T. Waterloo  
 25 Dec 9:00 am - C. Wilpula  
 26 Dec 8:00 am - M. Gutowski  
 10:30 am - M. Hazl

**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS**

18 Dec 5:00 pm - T. DeMarsh  
 19 Dec 8:00 am - A. M. Kwaiser  
 10:30 am - T. Peters  
 24 Dec 5:00 pm - E. Wanner  
 25 Dec 12:00 am - E. Serge  
 9:00 am - D. McMullen

**OFFERTORY FAMILIES**

None Scheduled At This Time

**RECITATION OF THE ROSARY**

18 Dec 4:30 pm - R. Hiteshew  
 24 Dec 4:30 pm - P. Acker

**COLLECTION COUNTERS**

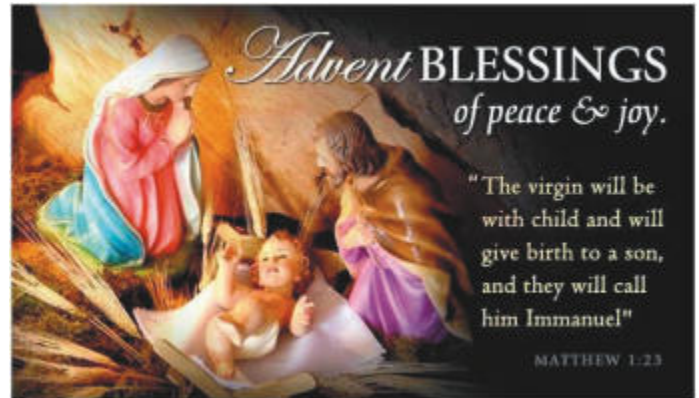
None Scheduled At This Time

**FAITH FORMATION**



Grades 1 - 11  
 Every Sunday 9 AM - 10:15 AM  
 dismissal from Gallagher Hall  
 Masks required

Sun. Dec. 19: Class  
 Sun. Dec. 26 & Jan. 2: No Class  
 Sun. Jan. 09: Classes resume



**2022 Calendars**



Production of the 2022 Calendars is delayed.  
 They will be distributed in the church upon arrival.

**Weekly Offering  
 December 12, 2021**

Offertory	\$ 2,667.00
Loose Money	289.23
Children	2.00
Religious Retirement	462.00
Facilities Maintenance	123.00
Christmas	20.00
Fuel & Utilities	20.00
Immaculate Conception	447.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$ 4,030.23</b>

**ONLINE:**

Offertory	\$ 1,268.00
Fuel & Utilities	25.00
Immaculate Conception	55.00
Facilities Maintenance	100.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$ 1,448.00</b>

**Catholic Services Appeal**

103 Families Pledged \$44,845  
 Paid to Date \$43,675

**Special retreat opportunity for young adults between 19 and 35.**

The Diocese of Erie is sponsoring a retreat Jan. 3-7 for college-age young people and young adults under the age of 35 at the Villa Maria Education and Spirituality Center south of Sharon. Applications are still being accepted, but space is limited. For more information, contact either of the retreat organizers: Jillian Zaczyk (jzaczyk@eriercd.org) or Dave Roncolato (droncola@allegheny.edu). The application for the retreat can be found under Young Adult Ministry (Silent Retreat) at : <https://www.eriercd.org/youthsilentretreat.html>.

# From Fr. Matt:

Dear Friends,

I seem to have eaten all my cookies from the Cookies Walk last week. Thanks to all our bakers and soup makers. Thanks to all who patronized the Cookie Walk and Soup Sale.

There is a penance service today at Notre Dame at 2:00 pm. Don't let this opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation pass you by. Go to Confession!

It's hard to believe that this is the Fourth Sunday of Advent and the Christmas Festival begins at the end of this week. Masses for the Christmas Celebration will be held Friday evening at 5:00 pm, Friday night at 12 midnight, and Saturday morning at 9:00 am. Please note that on Saturday, December 25 **there will not** be a 5:00 pm Mass.

In the gospel passage today we hear of Mary's visitation to her cousin Elizabeth who is expecting a child too. She greets Mary with the words "Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb!" This episode is referred to as the Visitation. The Visitation, you know, is the Second Joyful Mystery of the Rosary. The other Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary are: The Annunciation, The Nativity, The Presentation and The Finding of the Child Jesus in the Temple. Perhaps you have not prayed the Rosary in a long time or don't know how. There are resources in the back of church as well as online to help you. Now would be a great time to get into the habit of praying the Rosary.

Bishop Persico continues to encourage those who are comfortable doing so, as well as those who are not vaccinated, to wear a mask when gathered in church for Mass.

Stay safe,  
Fr. Matt

Readings for the week of December 19, 2021

Sunday: Mi 5:1-4a/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 /Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45

Monday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6 /Lk 1:26-38

Tuesday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21/Lk 1:39-45

Wednesday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd /Lk 1:46-56

Thursday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14 /Lk 1:57-66

Friday: Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29/Lk 1:67-79

Saturday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 /Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25  
 Night: Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13 /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/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6/Heb 1:1-6 /Jn 1:1-18

Next Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 /Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Lk 2:41-52 or 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28/Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10 /1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24/Lk 2:41-52

**MEMBERSHIP FORM**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Number of People in Household: \_\_\_\_\_

CIRCLE ONE: Request for Registration Form    Change of Address    Moving out of Parish    Want Envelopes

**Please drop Membership Form into the collection basket or mail to the Rectory.**

# Today

## Advent Penance Service

Prepare for Christmas by Celebrating the  
Sacrament of Reconciliation

December 19 - Notre Dame, Hermitage - 2:00 pm

4th Sunday of Advent

St. Augustine tells us that a “Christian is a mind through which Christ thinks, a heart through which Christ loves, a voice through which Christ speaks and a hand through which Christ helps.” As we look around and out at the world, we do not have to search too far before we come face to face with inequity and injustice. There is so much unfairness, prejudice, anger, hatred, violence, and want. The stories of human heartache, people being hurt, deprived of life’s necessities, loneliness, and sickness are far too commonplace. For many of the world’s ills, the vices of greed, lust, pride, gluttony, and jealousy are clearly among the more significant root causes.

Why doesn’t God just step in and fix this mess? After all, God created this world, and one would hope that He would step up and take some measure of responsibility for it! Once we sit with this thinking for a while, we can begin to realize just how flawed it really is. God did take responsibility and God did fix the problem! God sent us Jesus Christ as the divine solution to the world’s ills. It is not God who has shirked responsibility, we have. We are the ones who continually fail to set our own personal needs, wants, and securities aside so that One more powerful than us can use us.

Mary had to set her needs aside in order for the Son of God to come into the world. Put simply, Mary listened and believed. Having opened herself to being an instrument of the Divine, God could use her as His mind, heart, voice, and hand. She became God’s vessel so that God’s greatness could reach the ends of the earth and peace could come upon the world. God’s fix for the world’s difficulties is you and me. We are the ones who confess that Jesus Christ came into the world as the Son of God, the Prince of Peace, and Herald of Justice. All we have to do is believe, as did Mary, that what has been spoken to us by the Lord will be fulfilled. Then, we can step aside and be the Christians we claim to be. What a difference it would make if every person who professed to be Christian truly understood that their one and only vocation is to be God’s instrument. What a beautiful, equitable, and just world it would be.

©LPi

### MASS INTENTIONS

#### Saturday, December 18

5:00 pm **People of the Parish**

#### Sunday, December 19

8:00 am † **Ed Kerr** (Marie Hart)

10:30 am † **Andrew Weinel**  
(Jim & Dottie Joyce)

#### Monday, December 20

No Mass

#### Tuesday, December 21

Mass at St. Mark’s Chapel

† **Mr. & Mrs. Frank Bicek**  
(daughter, Irene)

#### Wednesday, December 22

8:00 am † **James F. Wilson, Sr.**

(J. Wilson & Farmartino Family)

5:00 pm - 7:00 pm Exposition of the  
Blessed Sacrament

#### Thursday, December 23

8:00 am † **Veronica Whitman**

(Fr. Matt & Staff)

#### Friday, December 24

8:00 am † **Robert J. Doolin** (Family)

5:00 pm † **Steve Muchie** (Ellen)

#### Saturday, December 25

12:00 am Midnight Mass

† **Clyde & Rose Marie Swaboda**

(Jim & Dottie Joyce)

9:00 am † **Bill Philson**

(Janice & David Langdon)

#### Sunday, December 26

8:00 am **People of the Parish**

10:30 am † **James E. Joyce, Sr.**

(Jim & Dottie Joyce)



### *Eternal Light*

Jesus is the 'Light of the World' and the Sanctuary Candle reminds us of His True Presence. The Sanctuary Vigil Light is burning this month in memory of John, Marge, & Tim Bell as requested by the Minner Family.

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