

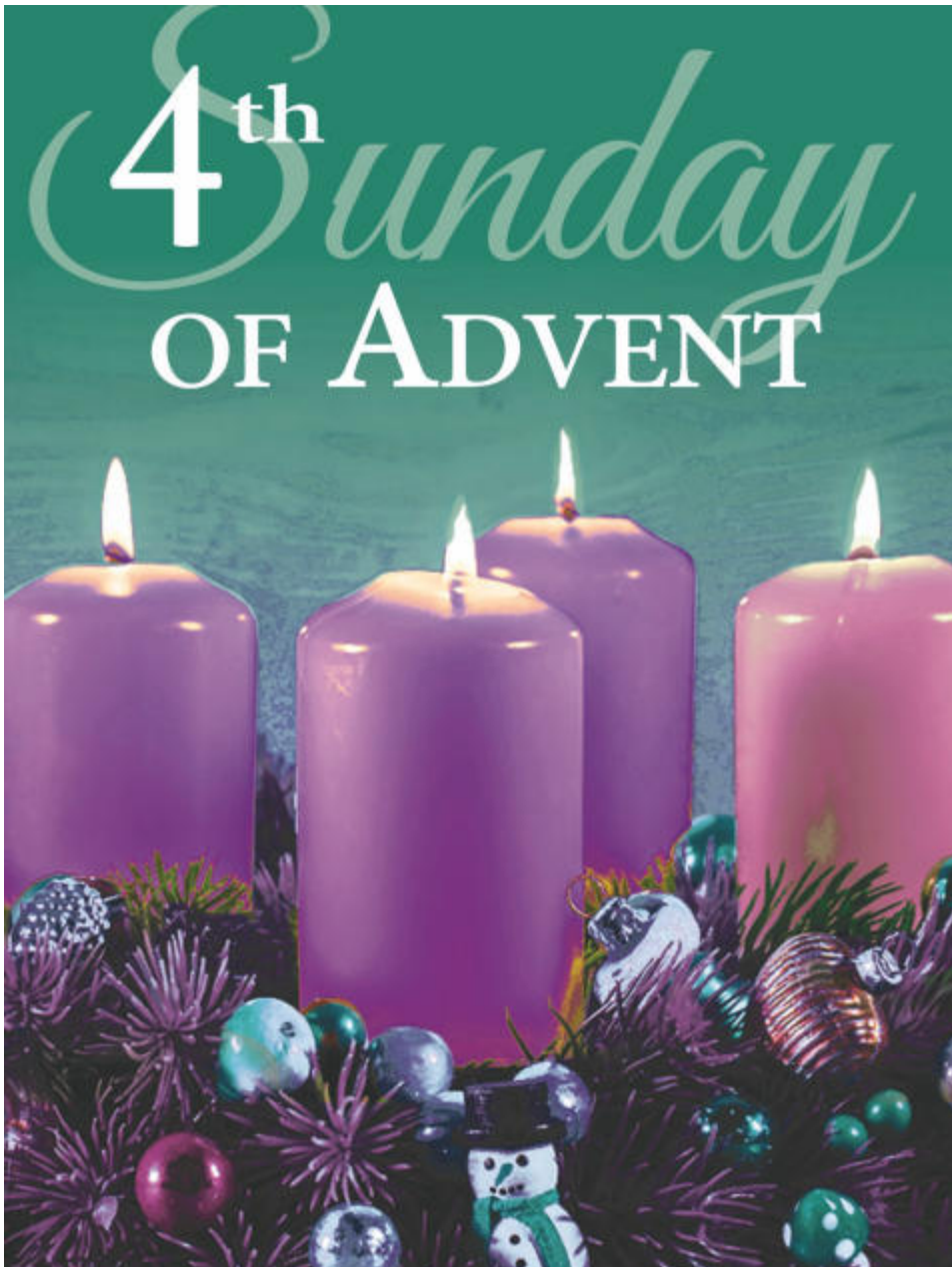


Immaculate Conception

CATHOLIC CHURCH

406 Alta Vista Avenue | 329 Maryland Avenue | Fairmont, WV 26554

DECEMBER 19, 2021 | FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



ALL ARE WELCOME!

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Church Office Hours

Monday-Thursday | 9:30am-1:30pm

PASTORAL STAFF

Pastor | Fr. Jojan Joseph, CST

304-281-0086 (cell)

jjoseph@dwc.org

Pastoral Associate

Sr. Stella Cronauer, CSJ

304-367-0485

Pastoral Secretary

Bonnie Chisholm

church@icfairmont.com | Ext. 11

Bookkeeper | Teresa Rundle

church@icfairmont.com | Ext. 10

Pastoral Music Director

Melissa Gump

musicdir@icfairmont.com

DRE | Rosemary Fantasia

304-363-6087 |

dre@icfairmont.com

Coordinator: Pre-K - 4th Grade

Kelly Smith **kazdavis3@gmail.com**



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Use our QR Code on your phone to access our online giving page quickly and securely.

Thank you for your continued generosity!

WELCOME TO IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH!

New Members

Catholic over the age of 18 (unless they are in school), we invite you to become registered members of our parish! This is a great way to practice the Catholic Faith. Registration forms are available on the bulletin boards in the back of the church. Please fill out this form and return it either by mail or the collection basket. Soon after, you will get a letter confirming your membership in the mail. Please make sure you introduce yourself to the Priest celebrating the Mass you attend!

LITURGY SCHEDULE

Saturday, Dec. 18

5:30pm †Orfeo Perella req. by his Family

Sunday, Dec. 19

8:30am Our Parish Family

11:00am † Pat McDonough req. by
Jamie & Leah King Family

Monday, Dec. 20 - No Mass

Tuesday, Dec. 21

7:00 pm † James Demasi req. by Dena
Turner

Wednesday, Dec. 22 -

8:00am † Anita Walls req. by Lisa
Mugnano

Thursday, Dec. 23

8:00am † Poor Souls in Purgatory req.
by Tim Slamick

Friday, Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve

4:00pm Children's MASS Our Parish Family

7:00pm Children's Mass

† Chad Smith req. by Karolyn Smith

10:00pm † Jim Ice req. by Joseph Menner

Saturday, Dec. 25 - Christmas Day

10:00am † Our Parish Family

Saturday, Dec. 25 - 5:30 PM - No Mass

Sunday, Dec. 26

8:30am † Barbara San Antonio req. by
Tom & Tommy San Antonio

11:00am † Bill Cather req. by Carol
Hoffman

PLEASE NOTE: *In the event of a Funeral Mass or school is delayed or cancelled due to inclement weather, the daily morning Mass will be cancelled and the Mass intention will be rescheduled.*

Christmas in Unknown land with friendly People!

This is my fifth Christmas celebration in Fairmont without any family members and relatives around me. Is that a big sacrifice for you? But more than blood relations, you, dearest parishioners, give me a feel at home, love and joy by your smile, gifts, cards and cookies. IC Fairmont became a home away home.

Wish you all a Christ-filled Merry Christmas and my prayer for you at Christmas Holy masses is that you find hope, faith, peace, love, and joy today, here and now and throughout the new year 2022.

Christmas is a time of promise, dreams and expectations. But for most of us, promises are broken, dreams dashed and expectations yet to be fulfilled. But still we have a hope when we look at Child Jesus in the Manger.

What do you learn from child Jesus in the manger this year?

When we look at the manger and celebrate God's self-emptiness, we understand Christmas should not be celebrated on December 25th alone; rather Christmas should be celebrated every day. Whenever we are ready for self-emptying, Christmas is there and Jesus gives us a rebirth, a new life through him.

There are several occasions throughout our lives when there is a need or desire to be self-emptied. Sometimes it will be in our family: with our wife or husband, with our children, with our parents or grandparents, with our brothers and sisters or relatives. Humbling experience may also take place in our work place or it may be here in our parish.

When the opportunity presents itself for self-emptying, one thing for sure, Jesus offers to us a rebirth and there we find the true Christmas.

Wish you all a Christ-filled Christmas throughout the New Year 2022!

- Fr. Jojan Joseph



To report an incidence of suspected child sexual abuse, please contact your local law enforcement agency, or you may confidentially contact WV Child Protective Services at 800.352.6513. In addition to civil authorities, to report suspected cases of sexual abuse by personnel of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston to the Diocese, please contact the Diocese at 888.434.6237 or 304.233.0880. Please visit www.dwc.org under "Accountability" for additional information and reporting methods. Immaculate Conception Church has made Rosemary Fantasia the coordinator for our church's Safe Environment team.

YEAR OF SAINT JOSEPH & THE FAMILY

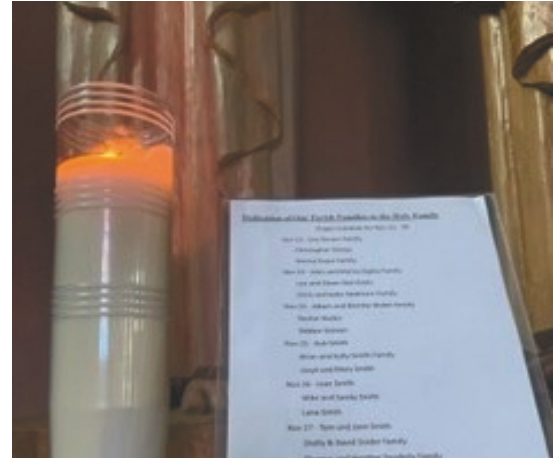
To mark the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the declaration of St. Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church, Pope Francis has proclaimed a "Year of Saint Joseph" from December 8, 2020 to December 8, 2021. In our diocese the date is extended to March 19, 2022.

Pope Francis has also called for the Year of the Family from 19th March 2021 - 26th June 2022 to celebrate the fifth anniversary of Pope Francis' apostolic exhortation, *Amoris Laeti*, on the pastoral care of families.

Dedication of Our Families to the Holy Family

To celebrate the Year of St. Joseph and the Family, we continue to pray each day for one of our Parish Families. The day chosen for your family will be notified through a letter (How? Surprise!) and a reminder call. We will also list the names of the families in the bulletin each week. I request our parish families to join me to pray during your family prayer time.

On the chosen day we dedicate your family to St. Joseph and the Holy Family by lighting a candle and placing your name in front of the Holy Family statue. Also, we will pray for you during the prayers of the faithful at Holy Mass. You may also wish to attend one of the Masses that week or weekend to pray for your special intentions.



Prayer Schedule for Dec. 29 - Jan. 2

- Dec. 29 - Kimberly Watkins
- Dec. 30 - Erik and Michelle Wilson
- Dec. 31 - Joshua and Cynthia Weaver
- Jan. 1 - John and Amy West
- Jan. 2 - Larry and Jennifer Willett

When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb." — Lk 1:41-42

Excerpt from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1978 CCD.

THIS WEEK'S SECOND COLLECTION
 Fairmont Catholic School Support
NEXT WEEK SECOND COLLECTION
 Catholic Charities in West Virginia

LITURGICAL MINISTERS SCHEDULE

Dec 24-26	Dec 24 4:00 PM	7:00 PM	10:00 PM	Dec. 25 10:00 AM	Dec. 26 8:30 AM	11:00 AM
Ushers	Margaret Blake Tom Cole Michael Rinehart Scott Stevens	Tammy Riffle Jo Ellen & Reuben Mick Dominic Fantasia	Darrell Capral Larry & Maria Morris Steve Wilson	Larry Willett Danny Serge Jenny Camele Edna Wilson	Jeanina Butcher-Ice Jim Beckman Dominic Fantasia Nick Fantasia	Alice Sherer Jay Urse Carol M. Licata Chuck Jordan
Altar Servers	Kaelyn & Xaden Willett Lily King	Logan Beckman Vincent & Giada Donato	Marissa, Miley & Natalie Summers	Kaelyn, Zoe & Xaden Willett	Jordan King Franchesca & Gabiella Mugnano	Lily King Dominic & Gabiella Rinehart
Extraordinary Ministers	Beth Fantasia	Dave Riffle	Peggy Corley	Jerry Boyers	Jerry Boyers	Kelly Smith
Lectors	Children's Mass	Mary Ann Starkey	Stacey Spadafore	Carol Boyers	Sherry Spadafore	Carol Hoffman
Security	Nick Fantasia Margaret Blake	Tammy Riffle Reuben Mick	Darrell Capral Larry Morris	Chuck Sayre Danny Serge	Jim Beckman Nick Fantasia	Jay Urse Carol M. Licata
Sacristan	Rosemary Fantasia	Vincent Bernardo	Ann Gaskins	Carol Boyers	Jerry Boyers	Carol Hoffman

END OF THE YEAR DONATIONS!

Officially, we must cut off tracking donations on December 31st of each year, so the final weekend this year for donations that will count towards your 2021 Church Donations totals is the weekend of Dec. 25-26th. All checks must be dated before December 31, 2021. Our thanks for all the generosity of our parishioners to help us maintain our Immaculate Conception Parish facilities and programs! May the Lord grant you every blessing.

Reminding you to consider the following donations:

- The Building Fund**
- Support for Fairmont Catholic School**
- Catholic Sharing Appeal**
- Catholic Charity**



BUILDING FUND DONATIONS

Building Fund Donations were made in loving memory of Jim Ice by Beth and Nick Fantasia, Larry and Rebecca Bee.

Building Fund Donations were made in loving memory of Ott Meale by Paulette Raschella & Bob Plutro

Blessing of Pastoral Council

The new Pastoral Council Members will be welcomed with a Blessing during Mass this weekend, Dec. 19 and 20. The new members are Brian Glance, Johnna Barker, Charles Jordan, and Steve Wilson. Congratulations!! And thank you for volunteering to serve our community.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Fairmont Catholic Winner Circle Winning Numbers** is #100 and #156.
 - The **Catholic Daughters of the Americas'** are planning a "Christmas in July" sale. If you have gently used decorations you'd like to donate, please set them aside for us. More details in the spring. Thank you. Catholic Daughters Court Joan of Arc
- The Catholic Daughters will meet Tues. Jan. 4th at 6:00**
- The **2022 Calendars** are available in the back of the vestibule of the Church. We would like to thank Ross Funeral Home for donating the calendars. There are a few calendars in Spanish to pick up.

Prayer to Saint Michael

St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle, be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil.

May God rebuke him we humbly pray; and do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly host, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls.

Amen.

(To be prayed before every Mass)

SACRAMENTS

Attention Eucharistic Ministers:

We have received signed certificates by Bishop Mark for all Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. There will be a commissioning at each Mass the weekend of **Jan. 1st and 2nd** at which time you will receive your certificate good for 3 years and they must be renewed. Please plan to be present for one of the Masses Jan. 1st or 2nd. If you have any questions, call Sr. Stella at 304 367-0485.



We give our prayerful support and condolences to the family members and friends of **Jerry Lee Walter, Sr.**, who passed away on December 8, 2021. May

he experience perfect peace and joy in the Kingdom of Heaven. Let us also express our condolences to his son Jerry, Jr., and daughter Amy Rundle and his grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Eternal Rest Grant unto him, O Lord. And let perpetual light shine upon him! May his soul and the souls of all of the faithfully departed rest in peace.

ST. PETER CANISIUS | FEAST DAY DECEMBER 21



Born in Holland, St. Peter Canisius (May 8, 1521 – December 21, 1597) was a preacher, teacher, and writer throughout his whole life. At the age of 19, he received a master's degree from the university at Cologne. Soon afterwards, St. Peter met Peter Faber, the first disciple of Ignatius of Loyola, who influenced him so much that he eventually joined the Society of Jesus.

St. Peter Canisius founded colleges and seminaries, served as a missionary, cared for the sick or imprisoned, and wrote close to eight volumes of letters — many about St. Cyril of Alexandria and St. Leo the Great.

A man blessed with many talents, St. Peter Canisius is a wonderful example of a man who developed his talents to further God's work here on earth.

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR MASS SCHEDULE

CHRISTMAS EVE: Friday, December 24, 2021

4:00 P.M.; 7:00 P.M & 10:00 P.M.

CHRISTMAS DAY: Saturday, December 25

10:00 A.M.

(There is no usual 5:30 P.M. anticipated Sunday vigil Mass)

NEW YEAR'S DAY: Saturday January 1, 2022

10:00 A.M.

5:30P.M.

SYNODAL LISTENING SESSION

Monday , January 17 at 1 :00 P.M.

Thursday, January 20 at 7:00 P.M.


Saturday, January 22 at 10:00 A.M.

Sunday, January 23 at 12:00 NOON.

A Big Thank You

The Stewardship Committee would like to thank all of the parishioners who supported our successful “Italian Christmas Treat” Sale.


It was fun to come together, bake and fellowship.



POPE’S DECEMBER PRAYER INTENTION

Catechists

Let us pray for the catechists, summoned to announce the Word of God: may they be its witnesses, with courage and creativity and in the power of the Holy Spirit.



CATHOLIC SHARING APPEAL

Catholic Sharing Appeal

Goal: \$21,750
Total Collected: \$35,164
Number of Gifts: 106

Thanks to all that generously contributed.

FAIRMONT CATHOLIC SCHOOL SUPPORT

2021 Goal:\$24,000.00
Year-to-Date: . \$19,699.82

Thanks for your continued support for our children.

STEWARDSHIP	
Dec 12	Totals
Attendance	271
Weekly Collection (Regular & Online)	\$3,751
Building Fund (Regular & Online)	\$4,841
FC School Support (Regular & Online)	\$423
Retirement for the Religious	\$1,214
Immaculate Conception	\$489

Your support and offerings are deeply appreciated!



EMMANUEL IS COMING

ADVENT PREPARES US

Blessed to Have Hope and Faith

Luke 1:39–45



Images: Adobe Stock

When Mary visits Elizabeth, she exclaims, “Blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord” (v. 45). Blessed was Mary for her hope and her faith. Blessed are we to have this same hope and faith in the fulfillment of God’s promise to his followers!

The way that Mary’s faith was fulfilled was amazing. Jesus’ birth

wasn’t quite the royal birth that one would expect for the King of Kings. Instead, it was quite radically the opposite. As the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* notes, “In this poverty heaven’s glory was made manifest” (525, see also Lk 2:6–7).

It makes you think, doesn’t it? Perhaps your faith is shaken when things don’t seem to be going according to plan. The situation of

the Lord’s birth certainly wouldn’t match most parents’ hopes. But God has a plan, and he never fails. And what joy this brings! Even in the dark of winter or the dark of a spiritual winter, we can find joy in the fulfillment of our hope and faith.

Our souls can magnify the Lord — he is coming!

PRAYER

Lord God, open our hearts so that we can receive the gift of the Lord with peace and with joy. Help us see the many ways the presence of Jesus in our lives will comfort us, form us, bless us, and challenge us. Give us the courage to carry Jesus with us all the days of our lives. Amen.

**“You, Bethlehem-Ephrathah
too small to be among the clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to be ruler in Israel.”**

— MICAH 5:1



The Nativity Scene

The first Christmas crèche was set up in a cave in Italy by Saint Francis of Assisi in 1223. When people from the village came to see the manger with hay, an ox, and a donkey, Saint Francis spoke to them about the newborn babe in Bethlehem. Take time during this Christmas season to visit the Christmas crèche in your parish church. Pray to the baby Jesus for your special intentions.

SAINT JOSEPH

If anyone had to rely on a feeling that things will turn out for the best, it was Saint Joseph. He took in Mary, risking his reputation and accepting a responsibility that he at first didn't understand. But he had hope and faith, and he forged on to serve as the earthly father and protector of the Savior.

Saint Joseph's trust was called upon again when Jesus was a baby. An angel appeared to Saint Joseph in a dream and told him to take Mary and Jesus to Egypt to escape King Herod, who was seeking to kill the newborn king (see Mt 2:13-18). Joseph didn't call up his friends in Jerusalem to confirm or Google places to stay in Egypt. He fled with faith, believing that what he desired — safety for his family — would be fulfilled.

Like Saint Joseph, we can proceed with the quiet confidence that he exhibited so well in such a tremendous role.

A CHRISTMAS RESOLUTION

Promise yourself that you will set aside some quiet time during the final week of Advent to prepare a place in your heart for the Christ Child. Imagine yourself in the stable at Bethlehem. Picture yourself holding the Christ Child. Allow feelings of peace and joy to fill your heart.

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