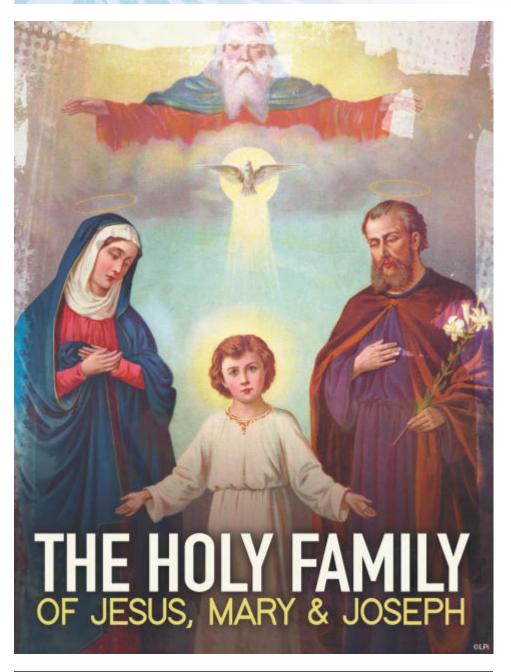
# Immaculate Conception

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

**DECEMBER 19, 2021 | FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT** 

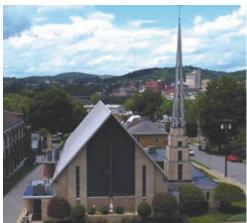




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Thank you for your continued generosity!



### 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

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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

#### WELCOME TO IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH!

Catholic over the age of 18 (unless they are in school), we invite you to become registered members of our parish! This is a greate 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. 25 - Christmas Day

10:00am †Our Parish Family

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

#### Sunday, Dec. 26 - Holy Family

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

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

Monday - Tuesday, Dec. 27 -28 - No Mass

#### Wednesday, Dec. 29 -

8:00am †Jim Ice req. by Carol Licata & Family

#### Thursday, Dec. 30

8:00am †Mario Manzo req. by Manzo & Gallucci Families

#### Friday, Dec. 31

8:00am †Deceased Family Members of Brenda Stotler

#### Saturday, Jan. 1 - Solemnity of Mary

10:00am †Deceased Family Members of Meredith Talerico

5:30 pm †Rose & Andrew Deering req. by Mr. & Mrs. Donald Morgan

#### Sunday, Jan. 2 - Epiphany of the Lord

8:30am Our Parish Family

11:00am † Deceased Family Members of Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Pellegrin

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.

#### Dear Parish Family Members,

As your pastor today, I would like to extend a sincere thank you to all our parish family for your love and care that you've given to me. I appreciate the opportunity you have given me to serve you and to get to know your love & appreciation through exchange of sending me lovely Christmas cards, gifts, Christmas cookies, and candies. They are very much appreciated.

Last two years I could not visit my family. But this year January 4 - Feb 3, I am taking my vacation. I am happy to attend the family gathering on January 22 for the First Holy Eucharist celebration of my niece Evana Joseph and the house blessing of my brother Viju Joseph.

Let the New Year 2022 and each day be filled with blessings and happiness. Please know that you are in my prayers continually and in your kindness, please pray for me especially on December 28, the 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary of my ordination and for my safe journey.

~Fr. Jojan Joseph

A BIG THANKS to everyone who helped decorate the church throughout the Advent season and for Christmas!! The Christmas crib and decoration was so wonderful and well appreciated! Thanks to all of the decoration committee members. Thanks also to the Men's Society and the Ladies

Society members who helped the coordinators Sr. Stella & Carol Boyers. A sincere thanks on behalf of Immaculate Conception Parish.

A SPECIAL THANKS TO the music ministry and to the children's choir who made the Christmas Eve

Holy Mass so celestial and graceful! Thanks to all faith formation teachers who prepared the children for Christmas program. A big thanks to the music director, Melissa Gump for directing the children in singing Christmas carols.



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 Saint Joseph and 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.



LITURGICAL MININSTERS SCHEDULE					
	Jan 1 10:00 AM	5:30 PM	Jan. 2 8:30 AM	11:00 AM	
Ushers		Maria Morris, Edna Wilson, Tom Cole, Margaret Blake	Johnna & Seth Barker, Larry Willett, Reuben Mick	Rhonda Wilson, Lisa Mugnano, Michael Rinehart, Pat McFarland	
Altar Servers		Natalie, Miley, & Marissa Summers	Jordan King Millie Barker, Benjamin Borgheiinck	Franchesca & Gabriella Mugnano, Gabriella Rinehart	
Extraordinary Ministers	Rosemary Fantasia	Larry Morris	Darrell Capral	Steve Wilson	
Lectors	John Barnes	Janice Glance	Nancy Ripoli	Rebecca Stevens	
Security		Tom Cole, Margaret Blake	Larry Willett Reuben Mick	Rhonda Wilson, Lisa Mugnano	
Sacristan		Larry Morris	Jim Gaskins	Steve Wilson	



Prayer Schedule for Jan. 7 - 9

Jan. 7 - Kevin and Donna Wilfong

Jan. 8 - Josh and Courtney Wilfong

Jan. 9 - Katrina Wilson Edna Wilson Family Daniel Wilson

> THIS WEEK'S SECOND COLLECTION Catholic Charities in West Virginia **NEXT WEEK SECOND COLLECTION** Disaster Relief for Kentucky

#### **Prayer Shawls Available**

Prayer shawls made by members of the Prayer Shawl Ministry group and blessed by our priest in the church are available. Shawls can be given to those undergoing medical procedures, comfort after loss, during illness, and many other life events. Call Sister Stella at 304-367 -0485 to get one.

# **CLOSED**

THE PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED DECEMBER 27, 29, AND 30TH.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Fairmont Catholic Winner Circle Winning Numbers are #100.
- The <u>Catholic Daughters of the Americas'</u> 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 6:00pm in Marian Hall.

**Thank you** to Kelly Smith, Rosemary Fantasia and all the Faith Formation teachers for the wonderful job they did in preparing the students for the <u>Christmas Program</u>. The children did a great job.!!





#### **SACRAMENTS**

**Attention Eucharistic Ministers:** 

We have received signed certificates by Bishop Mark for all Extraordinary Ministers of Holy There will be a Communion. public commissioning at each Mass the weekend of Jan 1st and 2nd at which time you will receive you certificate good for 3 years and them 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.

#### 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

Online giving is a convenient way to support your church. Check the website for Online Giving Instructions.

#### **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.



# 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.

<u>Special Disaster Relief Collection</u> - Most Rev. Mark Brennan, Bishop of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, has approved a special collection to be held the weekend of <u>January 1st and 2nd, 2022</u>, in all parishes and missions throughout the diocese to support recovery efforts related to the recent natural disasters that have occurred in <u>Kentucky</u>, leaving severe damage and loss of life. Donations can also be made on the diocesan website at www.dwc.org/disasterrelief.

Proceeds from this collection will support the humanitarian and recovery efforts of Catholic Charities agencies on the ground, working in the communities affected by the tornadoes.

As we hold the victims and first responders in our prayers during these critical days, let us also spend time in prayer and discernment as we prepare for this upcoming collection. Let us come together now to support our brothers and sisters in Christ who are suffering this horrible loss.

Please remember in prayer all those who have lost their lives in the wake of these disasters, as well as all those who have been injured and lost their homes, cars, employment, and access to food and water, especially as we prepare for the Christmas Season.

#### PARISH LEVEL LISTENING SESSIONS



Earlier this year, Pope Francis announced a worldwide synod to focus on the life and mission of the Church as we move forward together. The theme for this synod is, "For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation and Mission."

#### 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.

The sessions will be facilitated by Nick Fantasia and Carol Boyers.

Rather than simply a meeting of bishops, Pope Francis has asked us, the People of God, to take part in the synod-to "journey together" with our brothers and sisters in Christ along the path of renewal, guided by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Father has asked that every parish in the Diocese participate in this synod in order to listen to the entire People of God.

Anyone of these sessions will provide an opportunity for every member of our parish community to share our thoughts and feelings, but more importantly to discern how the Holy Spirit is guiding us in our journey together. Please join us for one of these important listening sessions.



We give our prayerful support and condolences to the family members and friends of Joseph Francis Merendino, Sr., who passed away on December 17, 2021. May he experience perfect peace and joy in the Kingdom of Heaven. Let us also express our condolences to his sons, Joseph, Jr., and James and his grandchildren and great grandchildren and his sisters, Carmella Merendino and Patricia Greco..

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.

STEWARDSHIP				
Dec 12	Totals			
Attendance	312			
Weekly Collection (Regular & Online)	\$4.476.20			
Building Fund (Regular & Online)	\$795.00			
FC School Support (Regular & Online)	\$887.00			
Retirement Fund for the Religious	\$125.00			
Christmas	\$430.00			

Your support and offerings are deeply appreciated!



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: \$20,586.82

Thanks for your continued support for our children.

NEW YEAR'S DAY: Saturday

January 1, 2022

10:00 A.M. 5:30P.M.

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## IC PRAYER CIRCLE!

To enroll your family members and friends in the IC Prayer Circle, please call the office at 304-363-5796 or email us at church@ICFairmont.com. It is our honor to pray for those who are dearest to you at all weekend Holy Masses.

#### SUNDAY REFLECTION BY FR. JOJAN JOSEPH

A Primary School teacher asks her students to write an essay about what they would like God to do for them. At the end of the day, while marking the essays, she read one that made her very emotional. Her husband, who had just walked in, saw her crying and asked her: "What happened?" She answered: "Read this. It is one of my students' essay."



"Oh God, tonight I ask you something very special: Make me into a Television. I want to take its place and live like the TV in my house. Have my own special place, and have my family around me. To be taken seriously when I talk. I want to be the center of attention and be heard without interruptions or questions. I want to receive the same special care that the TV receives even when it is not working. Have the company of my dad when he arrives home from work, even when he is tired. And I want my mom to want me when she is sad and upset, instead of ignoring me. And ... I want my brothers to fight to be with me ... I want to feel that family just leaves everything aside, very now and then, just to spend some time with me. And last but not least, ensure that I can make them all happy and entertain them. Lord I don't ask you for much. I just

want to live like a TV."

At that moment the husband said: "My God, poor kid. What horrible parents!" The primary school teacher looked up at him and said: "That essay is our son's!"

In an audience, Pope St. Paul VI told how one day, when he was Archbishop of Milan, he went out on parish visitation. During the course of the visitation he found an old woman living alone. "How are you?" he asked her. "Not bad," she answered. "I have enough food, and I'm not suffering from the cold." "You must be reasonably happy then?" he said. "No, I'm not," she said as she started to cry. "You see, my son and daughter-inlaw never come to see me. I'm dying of loneliness." During the audience Pope concluded: "Food and warmth are not enough in themselves. People need something more. They need our presence, our time, our love. They need to be touched, to be reassured that they are not forgotten."

The modern family, though living under the same roof, has no time for each other and for person to person conversation due to many reasons. Even though we are staying under the same roof, the distance and loneliness are increasing day by day.

A few years ago, a study was undertaken to find the U.S. city with the lowest incidence of cancer and heart disease. The winner was Rosetto, Pennsylvania. Soon experts descended upon the city expecting to see a town populated by non-smokers, people who ate the correct food, took regular exercise and kept close track of their cholesterol. To their great surprise, however, the researchers discovered that none of the above was true. They found instead that the city's good health was tied to the close family bonds that prevailed within the community. This suggests that there is much to be said for a close and loving family relationship. (Robert Duggan & Richard Jajac).

Today, Church reminds us make our family into a Holy family? Because earthly family has a link to our salvation and our civilization.

In the second reading, John reminds us that, as children of God the Father, we are members of God's own family. And as such we are expected to obey the greatest commandment of God: "Love one another," so that we may remain united to God in the Holy Spirit. Hence, what we have to do to make our family into God's own family?

First, find a uniting factor of the family to come together everyday. What is the uniting factor of your family? Most of us will say that our family is not a holy family. In family we have difficulties, conflicts and problems because we are imperfect and vulnerable human being. I have shared stories about my family a few times- I would say that the uniting factor of my family is half an hour family prayer and dinner after family prayer. If there is 8.00pm all should come for family prayer. Stop viewing television, stop personal study time or household work, etc. The family prayer united us ten children and today my siblings continue that family prayer and we all enjoy the fruits of it. No conflict between siblings and they share their blessings each other. I request you to find the uniting factor in your family.

Second, to make our family into holy family, the Church wanted us to learn lessons from the Holy Family: The Church encourages us to look to the Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph for inspiration, example and encouragement. They were a model family in which both parents worked hard, faced life difficulties together, helped each other, understood and accepted each other, and took good care of their Child so that child Jesus might grow not only in human knowledge but also as a Child of God. Trusting God, Mary and Joseph faced all the difficulties of family life right from the beginning of annunciation. For example: (a) They lost child Jesus in the temple and could not find in returning Caravan. They could find only after three days and could not understand what he said to them but they pondered over it or kept in heart.

Third, we need to make the family a confessional rather than a courtroom. At marriage homily we used to say, "See that you never convert your family into a courtroom; instead let it be a confessional. If the husband and wife start arguing like attorneys in an attempt to justify their behavior, their family becomes a court of law and nobody wins. It will lead to separation or divorce. On the other hand, if the husband and the wife -as in a confessional - are ready to admit their faults and try to correct them, the family becomes a Holy family." To make the family a confessional, you need to have daily family prayer and a meal together.

Today some people think that we can lead a family life without God and Church, and have mutual love and have joy at home. But if you are leading a family life with God and Church, the mutual love and the joy in the family will not take away from your family in difficult times. It doesn't mean you are free of difficulties but like holy family you could overcome the difficulty. Remember, the family that prays together stays together.

Let us pray for the grace of caring for one another in our own families, for each member of the parish family, and for all families of the universal Church. May God bless all our families.

WOMEN'S RETREAT - EMBRACED WITH COMPASSION...EMBRACING THE WORLD. Please join us for our annual Women's Retreat, co-Sponsored with the DWC Office of Evangelization & Catechesis, February 25-27, 2022, at St. John XXIII Pastoral Center in Charleston. Presented by Sr. Mary Dean Pfahler. The weekend will consist of presentations, quiet reflection, small group break-out sessions, media resources, and communal prayer. For more information contact Gerri Wright at 304-552-3662 or gerwright1@aol.com. You can register online at www.dwc.org/2022-Womens-retreat. \$150/pp single occupancy, \$125/per person double occupancy.



Three five-week courses are being offered through the University of Dayton's Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation (VLCFF). These courses are hybrid models. composed of both weekly live two-hour zoom lectures as well as a rich variety of online course materials and discussion experiences through the University of Dayton's Virtual Learning

Community For Faith Formation (VLCFF). The courses are being underwritten by the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston's Office of Evangelization & Catechesis, who pays 100% of the tuition and the cost of the books associated with the courses. The course instructor is Dr. Rodica Stoicoiu. For further information or to register, please contact Jeanne McKeets at jmckeets@dwc.org with your name, address, and phone number.

#### The New Testament Cycle 1 Jan 17-Feb 20 (registration open from Oct 13)

This course explores the stories in and behind the writings we call the New Testament. The course is a general overview introducing the student to the cultural context, composition, themes, and pastoral application of the New Testament accounts for growing in Biblical knowledge. We will study the texts from the threefold perspective of the World within the Text: Literature, The World behind the Text: History, and the World in Front of the Text: Our Culture. Through the study of Biblical maps, articles and religious art present on authoritative websites, our text and class discussions students can grow in New Testament knowledge, understanding and application to their life and ministry.

#### **Introduction to Prayer Cycle 2 Mar 7-Apr 9 (registration opens Jan 19)**

"Prayer is our means of taking a sighting, of re-orienting ourselves – by re-establishing contact with our goal. In the presence of God many components of our life fall into perspective and our journey makes more sense. Prayer is inseparable from living." (Casey, p.5). This course explores prayer as essential to our lives as Christian people, as individuals, and within our community of faith. Through this course, students will explore the qualities, forms, and expressions of prayer that help to form and sustain our lives as Catholic Christians.

#### Survey of Catholic Doctrine Cycle 3 Apr 25-May 15 (registration opens Mar 9)

This course will look at some of the major doctrines of the Catholic Church. Participants will come to a better understanding of the Trinity, original sin, church, salvation history, and the communion of saints. Participants will be asked to identify the meaning of magisterium, ecumenism, eschatology, and other Catholic terms.



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