

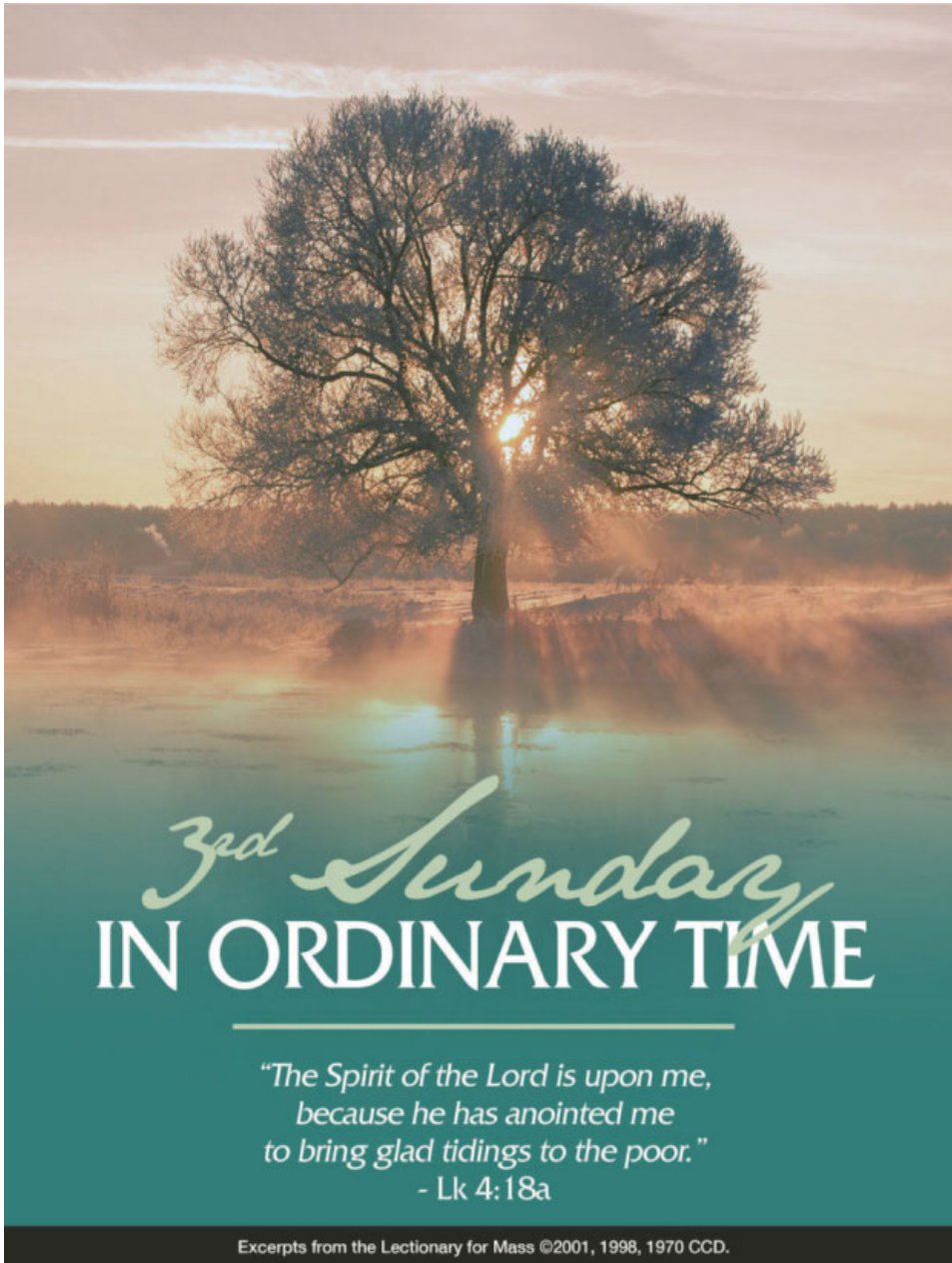


Immaculate Conception

CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

JANUARY 23, 2022 | THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



3rd Sunday IN ORDINARY TIME

*"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring glad tidings to the poor."
- Lk 4:18a*

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.



ALL ARE WELCOME!

304-363-5796 (p) | 304-366-4937 (f)
icfairmont.com
facebook.com/icfairmontchurch

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

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



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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, Jan. 22

5:30 pm Good Health of the Family of Mike and Tracy Priolette

Sunday, Jan. 23

8:30am † Jane Bonasso req. by the Neptune Family

11:00am Our Parish Family

Monday - Tuesday Jan. 24 - 25 - NO Mass

Wednesday, Jan 26

8:00am - Word and Communion

Thursday Friday, Jan. 27 - 28 - No Mass

Saturday, Jan. 29

5:30 pm † Jim Ice req. by Eddie & Kathy Daniel

Sunday, Jan. 30

8:30am † Ott Meale req. by David & Donna Wells

11:00am Our Parish Family

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.*

MASS INTENTIONS AVAILABLE

Holy Mass intentions are available for the year of 2022. Please call the office or drop intentions in the collection box to schedule. Holy Masses are offered for the living and deceased.

PARISH LEVEL LISTENING SESSIONS



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

Sunday, Jan. 23 at 12:00

Monday, Jan 24 at 1:00 PM

The facilitators are Nick Fantasia and Carol Boyers.

Synodal Prayer

*We stand before You, Holy Spirit,
as we gather together in Your name.
With You alone to guide us,
make Yourself at home in our hearts;
Teach us the way we must go and how we are to pursue it.
We are weak and sinful; do not let us promote disorder.
Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path
nor partiality influence our actions.
Let us find in You our unity so that we may
journey together to eternal life
and not stray from the way of truth and what is right.
All this we ask of You,
who are at work in every place and time,
in the communion of the
Father and the Son, forever and ever. Amen.*

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.



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.



Prayer Schedule for Feb 4 - 6

Feb 4 - Frank & Dixie Yann
 Feb 5 - Steve & Melanie Yergovich
 Feb 6 - Bub & Polly Yoho

LITURGICAL MINISTERS SCHEDULE			
	Jan 29 5:30 PM	Jan. 30 8:30 AM	11:00 AM
Ushers	Jenny Camele, Larry Morris, Jeanina Butcher, Scott Stevens	Tammy & Dave Riffle, Dominic & Nick Fantasia	Lisa Mugnano, Rhonda Wilson, Chuck Jordan, Alice Sherer
Altar Servers	Camele Stevens, Maria Morris Natalie Summers	Vincent & Giada Donato, Jordan King	Franchesca & Gabriella Mugnano, Lily King
Extraordinary Ministers	Carol Boyers,	Beth Fantasia	Rosa Anna Gallucci
Lectors	Jason Urse	John Barnes	Steve Wilson
Security	Larry Morris, Scott Stevens	Tammy & Dave Riffle,	Lisa Mugnano, Rhonda Wilson,
Sacristan	Carol Boyers	Jim Gaskins	Steve Perrotti

THIS WEEK'S SECOND COLLECTION
 Fairmont Catholic School Support
NEXT WEEK SECOND COLLECTION
 No Second Collection



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.

IN MEMORIAL
 A Building Fund Donation was made in Loving Memory of Joe Merendino by Carole & Ronald Croteau

Tax Return Reports

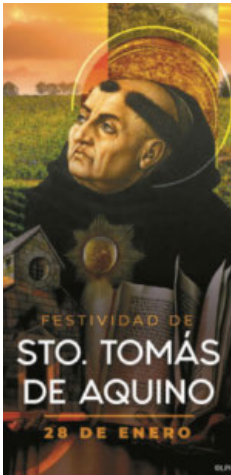
Our thanks for all the generosity of our parishioners to help us maintain our Immaculate Conception Parish facilities and programs! May the Lord grant you every blessing.

PERSONAL CONTRIBUTION REPORTS will be available at your request from the **first week of February onwards.** Envelope donation reports and all other donations given to the church will be shown for tax return purposes. To arrange it, just call the Parish Office at **(304)-363-5796 ext. 11 between the hours of 9:30AM and 1:30PM.**

STEWARDSHIP

	Jan. 16
Attendance	187
Weekly Collection (Regular & Online)	\$2,517.20
Building Fund (Regular & Online)	\$127
FC School Support (Regular & Online)	\$243
First Offering	\$25
Church in Developing World	\$175

ST. THOMAS AQUINAS | JANUARY 28



One of the most famous members of the Dominican Order, St. Thomas Aquinas (1225 – 1274) is well-known by many for his theological work, “*The Summa Theologiae*.” Born in Italy, his mother wanted him to become a Benedictine and had high hopes that he would eventually become abbot of Monte Cassino, where he spent much of his youth. To change his vocation, she had him kidnapped by his brothers on his way to Paris at the age of 19. He spent two years in their captivity. Despite this, nothing could shake him from his vocation to become a Dominican priest and he was eventually released. Once free, he went to Paris and then to Cologne, where he finished his studies with Albert the

Great.

His greatest contribution to the Catholic Church is his writings. The unity, harmony, and continuity of faith and reason, of revealed and natural human knowledge, encompasses his writings. The *Summa Theologiae*, his last and, unfortunately, uncompleted work, deals with the whole of Catholic theology.

The patron saint of teachers, theologians and students, St. Thomas Aquinas died in 1274. His life and the impact he had on the whole Church, however, remains alive today. ©LPi

SACRAMENTS

BAPTISM: Contact Parish office to schedule the baptism and make arrangements for the required parent preparation session.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: First Eucharist is celebrated in April/May for children who are enrolled in second grade at either Fairmont Catholic School or the Faith Formation Program.

PENANCE: The Sacrament of Reconciliation is available from 4:30PM on Saturday, and before and after all the Holy Masses.

CONFIRMATION: Confirmation is celebrated for students in 9th grade who have been prepared during their 9th grade year. Catholic adults who have not been confirmed should contact the Parish Office for preparation in order to be included in the celebration.

MATRIMONY: Engaged couples should contact the Parish Office at least 6 months prior to the desired wedding date.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK: Arrangements can be made by contacting Fr. Jojan (304)-281-0086, Sr. Stella (304)-367-0485, or the Parish Office (304)-363-5796.

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults): Contact Sr. Stella (304)-367-0485 for more details.

1ST FRIDAY HOLY MASS & ADORATION: Holy Mass will begin at 7:00PM and followed by Adoration until 8:00PM.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Fairmont Catholic Winner Circle Winning Numbers are #52 , & #149
- Synod Listening Sessions
Jan 23 12:00 AM
Jan 24 1:00 PM
- The Catholic Daughters will meet Tues Feb 1th 6:00 Marion Hall Immaculate Conception Church. All members are urged to attend. If you've been thinking about joining, plan to attend and see what we're all about. Light refreshments served after each meeting for fellowship.
Barb Kolar (Regant)
- Ladies Society Meeting - March 8 at 6:00 pm in Marian Hall.

Gifts from of Holy Land



We have a display of beautiful handmade olivewood carvings from the Holy Land. The Christians of the Holy Land have been suffering and continue to live in difficult economical situations. Olive wood carvings are part of the tradition handed down from one generation to another; Christian families have worked over 2000 years to protect the Holy sites in Bethlehem, Jerusalem, Nazareth, and to spread the word of Jesus. For about the past 1000 years they used carvings to keep the Bible alive in dimensions. Our mission is to support our fellow Christians in the holy land by selling some of their olive wood carvings which are one major source for their income. Proceeds from sale will benefits Christian families in Bethlehem/Holy Land. Last century, the Christians were about 37% but today they are only 5%.

By your support through the purchasing of these carving, 200 families will be helped to remain in the Holy land. Supporting these families is important also for the peace in the Middle East. Please stop by our tables and get you gifts directly from the little town of Bethlehem. Thank you all and God Bless.



We have a [new publisher](#) for our bulletin which means if you want the bulletin emailed directly to you, you must go to their website and subscribe again. Use your phone and the code to the left to go directly there. Or you can use the link on our website under the bulletin tab. If you have any questions, please call the office.

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)

POPE'S JANUARY PRAYER INTENTION



For true human fraternity

We pray for all those suffering from religious discrimination and persecution; may their own rights and dignity be recognized, which originate from being brothers and sisters in the human family.

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.

FAIRMONT CATHOLIC SCHOOL SUPPORT

2022 Goal:..... \$24,000.00
2022 Total \$ 586.00

Thanks for your continued support for our children.

SUNDAY REFLECTION

Today's gospel from Luke has two distinct sections, separated by several chapters. The first is the introduction or preface to the gospel. In this section Luke sounds like Ezra, the scribe, in our first reading.

The Israelites have returned from exile and there is a lot of work to do to rebuild the nation. Nehemiah is the ruler who will have to organize the physical rebuilding of Jerusalem, making sure the city is fortified and secure from attack. But that is not enough to rededicate the city and its people to God. That's Ezra's task. He will call the people back to God and the observance of the Law.

But why, when Ezra read from the Law, were the people sad? Perhaps on hearing the Word they realized their past failures. Or, maybe previously they hadn't understood the Word and now they can hear its life-giving qualities and it moves them to tears. Would that we had their hunger to hear God's Word and when we did, that it would move us to tears of repentance and gratitude for what we hear God offering us.

What's challenging about our first reading from Nehemiah is how solemnly Ezra proclaims God's Word and the devotion with which the people receive it. "Then they bowed down and prostrated themselves before the Lord, their faces to the ground." While that isn't how we physically respond on hearing the Word proclaimed at our liturgy, still it does challenge us to attentiveness and devotion to the Word we hear.

There is also an instruction to our lectors in the reading, for Ezra "read plainly from the book of the law of God..." I've heard well-prepared lectors who proclaim the Word with obvious devotion and practiced interpretation. They communicate their love of the Word to us and they "perk up our ears" to hear the message the scriptures have for us. It seems to me these lectors can encourage a love and curiosity among the hearers that might move them to read the scriptures on their own — and that might lead to further study and prayer. (Recently I was preaching in a parish and the first lector sounded unprepared and he rushed through the reading. I had all I could do not to stand up and yell, "Slow down!" I didn't, but have you ever had that feeling?)

Did you also notice the challenge to preachers? Not only did Ezra "read plainly from the book of the law of God," he "[interpreted] it so that all could understand what was read." That is a cue to us

preachers — interpret the Word so others can understand it and apply it to their lives.

Luke is in the tradition of Ezra and all those who pass on the Word with care and devotion. In the opening lines of his gospel he tells "Theophilus" (which means "friend of God" — so he is speaking to each of us) that he has undertaken "to compile a narrative of the events that have been fulfilled among us." His sources: "eyewitnesses from the beginning and ministers of the word." Like Ezra, Luke is a good preacher: he has "compiled" his material from real-life experience; reflected on it "anew" and written an "orderly sequence." For what purpose? So that "friends of God" can be reassured in the faith they have received. Guided by both Ezra and Luke there is a lector's workshop and a preaching course in their words today.

The gospel passage now jumps four chapters to Jesus' return to his hometown of Nazareth. When handed the scroll of the prophet Isaiah he proclaims the passage he has chosen. This is not an assigned reading for the day; Jesus makes a deliberate choice based on the direction of his guiding Spirit. Once again, reminiscent of Ezra, there is a careful tending to God's Word. When Jesus read from the prophet he has the complete attention of his listeners, "all in the synagogue looked intently at him."

The passage that Jesus reads from Isaiah reveals the choice he has made for how he will carry out his mission. One of Luke's themes is the role of the Spirit in Jesus' life and ministry. So Jesus' quote begins by naming the presence of the Spirit who has "anointed" and is sending Jesus to a special group of needy people waiting for relief that only God can give. Isaiah made a promise, and Jesus is here to fulfill it.

When Jesus concludes his reading from Isaiah he adds, "Today this Scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing." The "today" was not only that day back then in the synagogue, but it is our "today" as well. As it says in Hebrews (4:12), "For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart."

Some people listen to the Scripture readings thinking they are instructions upon which to model their behavior. While that is part of their purpose, but

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

primarily what we hear is actually happening among us as we hear it: “For the word of God is alive and active....” So, today we are the ones to whom Jesus proclaims freedom from: sin, frustration about our inadequacies and halfhearted commitment; lack of trust in our gifts; anxious fear of God; walls that separate us from one another etc.

We are like the people in the synagogue that day. We invite Jesus to step forward to speak his liberating word to us. We ask him to let the light-giving quality of his word penetrate the deep reserve in us, the place where we cling to the past and fear what a deeper commitment to him might mean. His light dispels the darkness and grants liberty. We invite Jesus to enter the center of our experience and show us the Holy Spirit who is ready to heal and free us and then to send us on the same mission Jesus was sent: “to bring glad tidings to the poor.”

What might the Spirit do for us? Paul makes one suggestion today. He uses the metaphor of the body. “We are all baptized into one body.” So, in this body of Christ the Spirit can transform our relationships. Paul’s word to us is a challenge to realize who we are in the body of Christ; that we are bound to one another as our human body’s parts are bound to one another. Our vocation, according to Paul, is to do what we can to keep the body whole, attend to any part that suffers and honor those worthy of praise.

The congregation’s interest is roused when Jesus reads the Isaian quote to them. But Luke replaces “to call for” (Isaiah 61: 2a) with a more declarative verb

“to proclaim.” So Jesus wasn’t merely urging a release to the captives, but “proclaiming” — that is, declaring it present and actually happening. The Spirit is upon Jesus and the proof will be that his words bear fruit and accomplish what he proclaims.

We each take the images from Jesus’ statement today and apply it to ourselves. In what area of my life am I — captive? blind? oppressed? Etc. But what about a literal application as well? For example, Jesus announces he has come to “proclaim liberty to captives.” Having just visited a friend in prison I would affirm what we already know. First, that society needs protection from the violent and lawbreakers. But in our country isn’t our prison system an indication that we have gone too far? That our prisons are solely punitive? For example: “three-strike sentencing” that locks people up for the rest of their lives; young offenders placed in the same prison environment with hardened adult criminals; minimal education, counseling and rehabilitative programs for prisoners? And what about recent revelations of withheld or destroyed evidence that would have helped accused persons at their trials? We weigh this with Jesus’ instructions to free captives and end with Pope John Paul II’s words on July 9, 2000:

We are still a long way from the time when our conscience can be certain of having done everything possible to prevent crime and to control it effectively so that it no longer does harm and, at the same time, to offer to those who commit crimes a way of redeeming themselves and making a positive return to society. If all those in some way involved in the problem tried to . . . develop this line of thought,



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.

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