

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH DECEMBER 10, 2023—SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Saturday, December 9

8:00 a.m. Robert Shoulder (Buzzy)

3:00 p.m. Duncan/Cox Wedding

4:30 p.m. Elaine Baker (Dan)

Sunday, December 10

8:00 a.m. Bess & Russ Alberts (Family)

10:00 a.m. Robert Crupie (Family)

11:30 a.m. Darrell Dole (Wife & Family)

Monday, December 11

7:45 a.m. Brett James Noroski (Riley Way Neighbors)

Tuesday, December 12

7:45 a.m. Our Parish Family

6:30 p.m. Jim & Della Simonettta (Family)

Wednesday, December 13

7:45 a.m. John Churma (Audrey & Family)

Thursday, December 14

7:45 a.m. Dennis Clipper (Lois)

Friday, December 15

7:45 a.m. Lynnette McHugh (Cindy)

Saturday, December 16

8:00 a.m. Bob Fichtner (Family)

4:30 p.m. Bob Sistek (Daughter)

Sunday, December 17

8:00 a.m. Ida & Herman Richardson (Family)

10:00 a.m. Danne & Anne Kapanak (Dennis & Lorraine)

11:30 a.m. John & Theresa Carrera (Family)

PARISH STAFF CONTACTS

Rev. John Moineau, *Pastor* icfatherjohn@gmail.com

Rev. Louiegene Arnold Valdez, *Parochial Vicar* lvaldez@dioceseofgreensburg.org

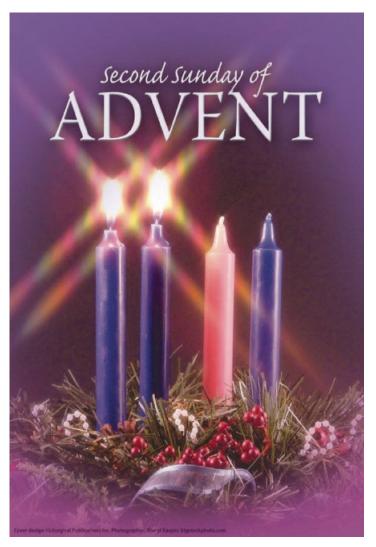
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jfilak@queenofangelssch.org www.queenofangelssch.org

Diocese of Greensburg

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HELP LINES

St. Vincent DePaul

www.svdpgreensburg.org - 724-691-3711

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Greensburg 724-837-1840

Parish Office Hours - 8am to 4pm

Monday through Friday

308 Second Street - Irwin, Pa 15642 724-863-9550

HAPPENINGS ON THE CORNER!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!

- Altar Candles are available for 2024, they are lit in memory of the person for a month and the cost is \$100. Please call the office at 724-863-9550
- ♣ Lessons and Carols—December 10, 2023 at 4 p.m.
- Advent Penance Service—December 19, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Church
- † IMG/IWG—will finish the sessions on "The Chosen" the following 4 weeks: 1/20, 1/27, 2/3 & 2/10/24 6:30 am



CONGRATULATIONS
FATHER
LOUIEGENE ON
CELEBRATING YOUR
11TH ANNIVERSARY OF
YOUR
ORDINATION ON
DECEMBER 5TH!
WE ARE VERY BLESSED

TO HAVE YOU AT OUR PARISH! MAY GOD CONTINUE TO BLESS YOU ALWAYS!



PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED AT NOON ON DECEMBER 15th DUE TO A MEETING AT THE GOOD SHEPERD CENTER.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

<u>ADVENT PENANCE</u>

SERVICES

ALL PENANCE SERVICES
WILL BEGIN AT 6:30 PM

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19TH
Immaculate Conception, Irwin
WEDNESDAY - DECEMBER 20TH
Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, North Huntingdon
THURSDAY - DECEMBER 21ST
Saint Agnes, North Huntingdon





Tis the Season! We are looking for a few good men, women, teens to help the **Decorating Committee** for Christmas with lifting, climbing ladders, decorating trees, setup mangers etc.!

Thursday, December 21, 6:30 pm. Questions--call Sandy, 724-863-5860. Something for everyone!



Winning number taken from First PA Pick 3 EVENING Number drawing on

Dec. 25, 2023 - Win \$2000.00 CASH Dec. 26, 2023 - Win \$1000.00 CASH

Dec. 31, 2023 - Win \$1000.00 CASH

Jan. 1, 2024 - Win \$1000.00 CASH
Benefits Immaculate Conception Parish

Donation \$10.00 1000 Tickets Sold

SGOC License #409

THERE ARE STILL TICKETS AVAILABLE IN THE PARISH OFFICE FOR HOLIDAY CASH RAFFLE AND ALSO THE ST. ANNE'S HOME IN GREENSBURG LOTTERY CALENDERS -

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\$30. PARISH OFFICE - 724-863-9550



PASTOR'S NOTES

JESUS IS BORN BUT HAVE "WE" FOUND HIM YET? IN SEARCH OF THE MESSIAH

In light of what we have been seeking this Advent Season I thought you might find this article very insightful and appropriate for meditation at this time of year. The article appeared on <u>Catholic online.com</u> By Dr. Chris Anthony Butterworth, Malaysia.

Once again, we are in the season of Advent indicating that Christmas is just around the corner. Many of us may remember the once popular hymn during this season, "Oh Come Divine Messiah" whose lyrics are to the right.

Yes, those days life was very simple as we waited in silence full of hope that good will soon triumph over evil thereby ridding our lives of sadness.

Those words were so meaningful and bring back pleasant memories of Christmas of the yesteryears.

Christmas is a commemoration of God's coming into the world. He came for all of us – believers and non-believers alike. His birth should bring us hope and triumph which will dispel the sadness from our lives. But after years of celebrating Christmas after Christmas many of us are yet to see that triumph in our lives and our hopes may be giving way to despair. Has the Messiah really come? If He has, where is He? Why doesn't He bring the triumph that dispels the sadness of man?

The real problem today is that we are waiting for God to literally come to us. We celebrate His birth just like that of any one of us – offering prayers, eating, drinking and making merry. We celebrate his coming into the world but we do not welcome Him into our hearts and lives.

Yes, He has come into the world and is very much in our midst but unfortunately, we refuse to recognize Him therefore fail to welcome Him.



By being born to poor parents, in an environment of extreme poverty, Jesus is telling us where He dwells - not in places of majesty and glamour but among the poor and the down-trodden, the sick and dying, the hungry, the oppressed and in those we love and even in those we hate. In short, He is among the masses.

Amidst our celebrations this Christmas, let us pause a while to look around us to recognize that Jesus was born into the world two thousand years ago. He is among us in every person and in every trial and tribulation we encounter in our lives. Let us take a moment to look around to recognize Him in those who do not have joy and peace in their lives.

Let us do the little within our means to alleviate the pain and misery in their lives. Let us do whatever we can to give them the hope that triumph will one day wipe out the sadness in their hearts.

We too, like Jesus, must have the humility to come down from our positions of comfort and power to meet Him in the people around us. If we isolate ourselves from the masses by building a fortress around us with all our wealth and power together with greed, selfishness and pride, then we can keep waiting for Jesus all our lives but it will only be in vain.

To us then His birth into this world, that is Christmas, will be just another day to celebrate, eat, drink and make merry. It will never become the day when hope shall sing of triumph and sadness flees away.

PASTOR'S NOTES CONTINUED

Heart/Soul Healthy Advent:



Three Things to Strengthen Your Disposition

Last Sunday, in my homily I suggested as our mission to "Become Heart/Soul Healthy" as a way to prepare for the coming of our Salvation. We all know that a healthy heart provides us with a healthy life. Jesus and Saint Paul remind us that we must not lose heart and to be strengthened by the love of God in order to be found blameless in His sight. So this stands as a reminder of the Three things we can do during this Advent Season to be Heart/Soul Healthy.

1. Exercise 20 minutes a day. We all know that prayer is the exercise of our Spiritual lives...So, let's pump it up over the

next 20 days! Suggestion: Use the BLUE ADVENT BOOK that we handed out last week. This day to day exercise (15 minutes) will set your heart and soul on a focus for the day. These little meditations are best as morning prayer. Also make the ADVENT NOVENA PRAYER a part of your family prayer at night. (There are copies/cards in the narthex and in the Nov. 26th bulletin). This prayer sets our hearts and souls in Bethlehem at the very moment of the birth our Lord. "Ask and you shall Receive!"

- 2. Eat Properly and be nourished with substantial Foods. I suggested that is why we attend Sunday Liturgy so that we can "Feed" on the Bread of Life....Christ our Lord. We first eat of the Word of God in the Liturgy of the Eucharist and then feast on His Divine Presence in Holy Communion. I would challenge you to eat more of this food during Advent: consider attending Saturday morning Mass or Tuesday evening Mass. Eat of the Holy Word of the Scriptures: read the beginning of Saint Luke's Gospel...the Infancy Narratives...wonderful reading as a family as well.
- 3. REST We all need a "rest" from the hustle and bustle of the "xmas" season....Award yourself this rest by PRAYING YOUR CHRISTMAS CARDS Once a day sit in the quiet and open your Christmas Cards and pray them...most of them have a spiritual verse....Let it resonate in your heart/soul. Then pray for the sender and their families. Make it a true spiritual gift rather than a decoration on the back of the door or to adorn your stair case....you deserve to know that you are loved by the Faith shared in Christ by the sender.

Saint Catherine of Laboure: Two Day Conference

When: Monday, December 11 -12th

> Time: 6:30 PM

Where: Immaculate Conception Church

Who was she?

Catherine Labouré, DC was a French member of the Daughters of Charity of Saint Vincent de Paul and a Marian visionary. She is believed to have relayed the request from the Blessed Virgin Mary to create the famous Miraculous Medal of Our Lady of Graces worn by millions of people around the world.

Day 1:

Life Story of Saint Catherine of Laboure and her connection to our Parish of Immaculate Conception through the Miraculous Medal

Day 2:

- At Mass during the Homily will focus on the Miraculous Medal
- . Blessing and reverence of the Relic
- · Placing of the relic in the altar
- Miraculous Medals Blessed for all attending



DECEMBER 10, 2023 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

CANDLES

Sanctuary Candle: In Memory of Dennis Clipper by Lois

Easter Flame Candle: In Memory of Bob & Mary Jane Sistek

by Cindy

Divine Mercy Candle: In Memory of Jerold Gesmond by

Dan & Joan

St. Peregrine Candle: In Memory of Robert Griffen by wife

Kathy

St. Joseph's Candle: Month's Mind

Altar Candles for the Month of December:

In Memory of Ott and Yeager Families By Family

Advent Candles: In Memory of Joe, Jinny, Beverly, Mary Jo & John Ott



December 10 - Second Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11 2 Peter 3:8-14 Mark 1:1-8

December 17 - Third Sunday of Advent

61:1-2a, 10-11 Isaiah 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 1:6-8, 19-28 John



Prayers and Sympathy

Please pray for all of our dearly departed. May they rest in peace and may perpetual light shine upon them.

Homebound Ministry

If you know of any family, neighbors, or fellow parishioners who are homebound and would like to have a Homebound Minister bring them Holy Communion, please call Sharyn Gesmond at the Parish Office 724.863.9550 or sgesmond@dioceseofgreebsburg.org

We have many opportunities to become involved: If you are interested in volunteering or planning to resume volunteering for our parish ministries and parish activities please contact Sharyn Gesmond: at 724-863-9550 or email sgesmond@dioceseofgreensburg.org to update and/or obtain your clearances.

Handbell and Organ Advent Meditation

coming to St. Regis Parish on December 17, at 3:00 PM

ներերերերերերերերերերերերեր Continue your spiritual journey this Advent season and uplift your heart with instrumental music as you prepare for the coming of Christ.

St. Regis Parish 517 Homewood Avenue Trafford, PA 15085 412-372-4577



Admission is free

SACRAMENTS

Anointing of the Sick

The sacrament is available during Confession hour and after each Mass per request.

Matrimony

Couples wishing to celebrate the Sacrament of Matrimony must contact the parish office one year in advance of the wedding.

Baptism

Families of our parish who wish to have their child baptized please email Susan Cheplic skcheplic@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Confession

Tuesday: 5:15-6:15 pm Saturdays: 9:00 - 10:00 a.m.

Immaculate Conception Parish offers Online Giving For additional information visit our website at:



www.icirwin.org/ giving/funds or scan the QR Code

If you decide to switch to online giving and would like to discontinue your envelopes please contact the parish office. Thank you!



WEEKLY **OFFERING:**

Sunday Offertory -11/25 & 11/26 -\$19,203.02

Online Giving - 11/20-11/26/23 \$4,593.80

Thanksgiving Eve collection for Saint Vincent DePaul was \$1,178.00

THANK YOU!

Matters of Sexual Misconduct Information

If you have any suspicion about the sexual abuse (or any other type of abuse) of a minor child by anyone — please contact PA ChildLine immediately at 800-932-0313. If the alleged abuser is functioning in a parish, school or diocesan position as clergy, religious, paid staff or volunteer you are also requested to contact the Bishop's Delegate for Matters of Sexual Misconduct after you have called the ChildLine number and made the report. The Bishop's Delegate may be reached at 724-837-0901, ext. 1221.

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If you would like to purchase a gift card from the Parish Civing Tree, please consider helping Queen of Angels Catholic School at the same time. You can help raise easy money for Queen of Angels Catholic School by purchasing your gift cards through the school's SCRIP program. Complete These Three Easy Steps:

- 1. Fill out the form below
- 2. Include a check made payable to Queen of Angels Catholic School
- 3. Place both items in the collection basket.

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\$25	ĺ]	\$	
Walmart:				
Value	Quantity		Total	Queen of Angels Catholic School
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Kohl's:				Please make checks payable to:
\$10	(]	\$	Queen of Angels School
\$25	[]	\$	TO COMPANY AND THE PARTY OF THE
Total			s	

Thanks for Your Support!!!!

If you have any questions please call the school's office 724-978-0144 or contact Christina Torok at ctorok@queenofangelssch.org

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Christmas: A Reason for Hope

Grief Share

How planning benefits you

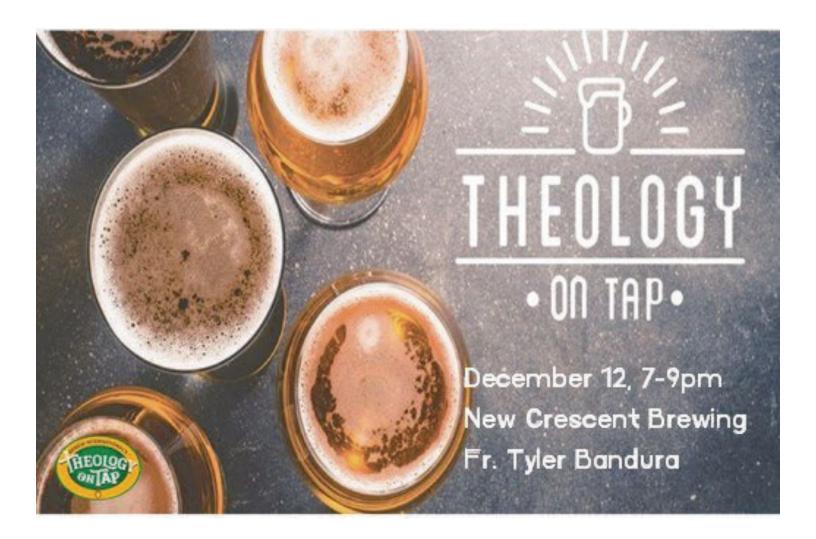
The holidays can be unpredictable in grief, but having a simple, flexible plan will help give you a bit of control over your emotions.

Will the holidays always hurt this much?

H. Norman Wright, counselor and traumatologist who faced the death of his wife and two children, answers this question.

Join us for an afternoon with others that are struggling the loss of a loved one this holiday season.

December 17, 2023 4 PM to 6 PM Our Lady's Plaza

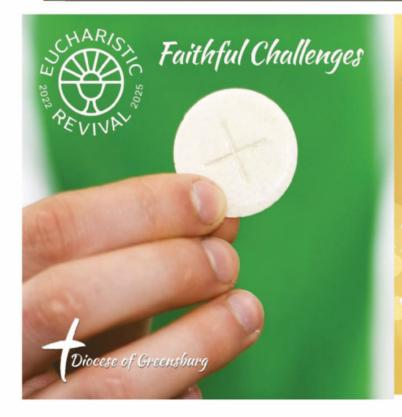




December Faithful Challenge: Embrace Eucharistic Revival

Eucharistic Revival is alive and well in our faith community! Over the last year, thousands of people responded to Bishop Kulick's weekly faithful challenges on social media. And it truly has made us a more Eucharistic Community. In December, as we celebrate both the Advent and Christmas seasons, we urge you to once again accept his challenge and open your heart and mind to the power of the Eucharist! Whether it be placing an Advent wreath in the center of your home, attending daily Mass or a Mass with the Bishop, or even saying a prayer for the Eucharistic Revival, you join with the living Body of Christ.





Faithful Challenges

Diocesan Prayer for Eucharistic Revival

Lord Jesus, You are the living bread

who satisfies the hunger of the human heart.

In the Eucharist, the bread and wine become Your Body and Blood, the gift of Yourself to the Church.

Deepen our faith in Your Eucharistic presence and strengthen us as members of the Church, the Body of Christ.

As we encounter and revere Your Eucharistic presence, open us to the needs of our brothers and sisters here and everywhere throughout the world. Help us to reveal Your love, Your promise, Your presence to them by our lives, and in all we say and do.

Amen

Diocese of Greensburg



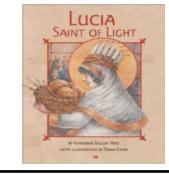
THE FEAST OF ST. LUCY—DECEMBER 13

The name Lucy or Lucia is from the Latin root word for light. In Scandinavian countries where Winters are long and dark, her feast day is celebrated as a festival of light. In Norway and Sweden, young girls dress as St. Lucy in a white dress with a red sash, with wreaths of lighted candles on their heads. They carry trays of sweet rolls to serve their families in honor of St. Lucy's service to the poor. According to tradition, St. Lucy would wear a wreath of candles on her head to light the way through the dark underground catacombs while ministering to the Christians hiding there. Special feasts in her honor are also celebrated in Italy (she was born in Sicily), Croatia, Hungary and The Philippines.

St. Lucy (283-304) is also the patron saint of persons with eye problems or blindness because of the legend associated with her martyrdom during the Diocletian persecution. She is usually pictured holding palms (a symbol of martyrdom) and a small tray with eyes.

She is one of eight women saints including the Blessed Virgin Mary, who are commemorated by name in

the Canon Mass.





IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

Irwin, Pennsylvania Office of Liturgical Music Ministry

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 10, 2023 - Order of the Mass

VOCATIONS PRAYER

Lord Jesus, raise up from our homes those called by the Father: courageous and humble men to the Priesthood, generous servants to the Permanent Diaconate, faithful people to Consecrated Life, and holy men and women to the Sacrament of Marriage. Holy Spirit, help us to live our universal vocation to holiness by listening to the Father's voice and responding with a sacrificial love. Holy Mary, Model of vocations, pray for us.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Awake! Awake and Greet the New Morn



KYRIE

Text: Morty Hougen, b.1956 Tone: REFORCE: 9 8 9 8 8 7 8 9. Marty Hangen, b.1930 © 1983, GLA Publications. Inc.

Chant



THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

Comfort, give comfort to my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her service is at an end, her guilt is expiated; indeed, she has received from the hand of the LORD double for all her sins. A voice cries out: In the desert prepare the way of the LORD! Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God! Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill shall be made low; the rugged land shall be made a plain, the rough country, a broad valley. Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together; for the mouth of the LORD has spoken. Go up on to a high mountain, Zion, herald of glad tidings; cry out at the top of your voice, Ierusalem, herald of good news! Fear not to cry out and say to the cities of Judah: Here is your God! Here comes with power the Lord GOD, who rules by his strong arm; here is his reward with him, his recompense before him. Like a shepherd he feeds his flock; in his arms he gathers the lambs, carrying them in his bosom, and leading the ewes with care.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 85

Michel Guimont

Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

SECOND READING

2 Peter 3:8-14

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years and a thousand years like one day. The Lord does not delay his promise, as some regard "delay," but he is patient with you, not wishing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will

come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a mighty roar and the elements will be dissolved by fire, and the earth and everything done on it will be found out. Since everything is to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be, conducting yourselves in holiness and devotion, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved in flames and the elements melted by fire. But according to his promise we await new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. Therefore, beloved, since you await these things, be eager to be found without spot or blemish before him, at peace.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL READING

Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ the Son of God. As it is written in Isaiah the prophet: Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way. A voice of one crying out in the desert: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths." John the Baptist appeared in the Desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. People of the whole Judean countryside and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the Jordan River as they acknowledged their sins. John was clothed in camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist. He fed on locusts and wild honey. And this is what he proclaimed: "One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

CREED

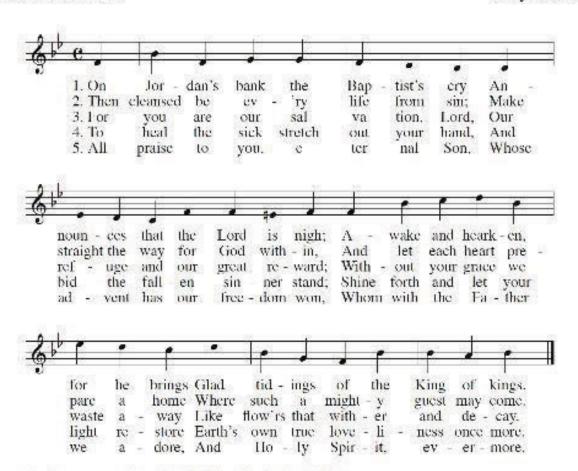
I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scrip tures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PREPARATION OF GIFTS

On Jordan's Bank



Texts Josephur, organisses, Carries Coffin, 1876, 1749; m. by John Chandler, 1806, 1876, air Tener WINCHES TER NEW, LM, adapt, from Monacheckes Usindanco, Hamburg, 1698.



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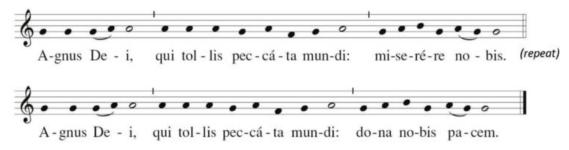


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AGNUS DEI Chant, Mass XVIII



Music: Vatican Edition XVIII; acc. by Richard Proulx

COMMUNION HYMN Like a Shepherd



Text: Based on Isaiah 40:9ff; Ezekiel 34:11ff; Matthew 11:28ff. Text and music © 1976, Robert J. Dufford, SJ, and OCP.
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Comfort, Comfort, O My People



Text: 87 87 77 88; based on Isaiah 40:1–8; Johann G. Olearius, 1611–1684; tr. by Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.

Music: Psalm 42 (Genevan Psalter), 1551; Claude Goudimel, 1514–1572.











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