



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

DECEMBER 17, 2023—THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Saturday, December 16

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

4:30 p.m. Bob Sisteck (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)

Monday, December 18

7:45 a.m. Hedy Dezorzi (Family)

Tuesday, December 19

7:45 a.m. Our Parish Family

6:30 p.m. **PENANCE SERVICE**
NO ADORATION OR MASS

Wednesday, December 20

7:45 a.m. Jud Shiffer (Mom)

Thursday, December 21

7:45 a.m. William Gallagher (Family)

Friday, December 22

7:45 a.m. Ed Behr (Family)

Saturday, December 23

8:00 a.m. Dennis Kisner (Family)

4:30 p.m. Hailey Cox (Boccabella Family)

Sunday, December 24

8:00 a.m. Liddie Blank (Claire)

10:00 a.m. Jeff Cole (Mom & Dad)

11:30 a.m. Matthew Fischerkeller (Family)

Sunday, December 24 The Nativity of the Lord

4:00 p.m. Pat & John Huemme (Family)

6:00 p.m. Dana Waugaman (Family)

8:00 p.m. Michele Ruby (Family)

Midnight Shawn Teamann (Family)

PARISH STAFF CONTACTS

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

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

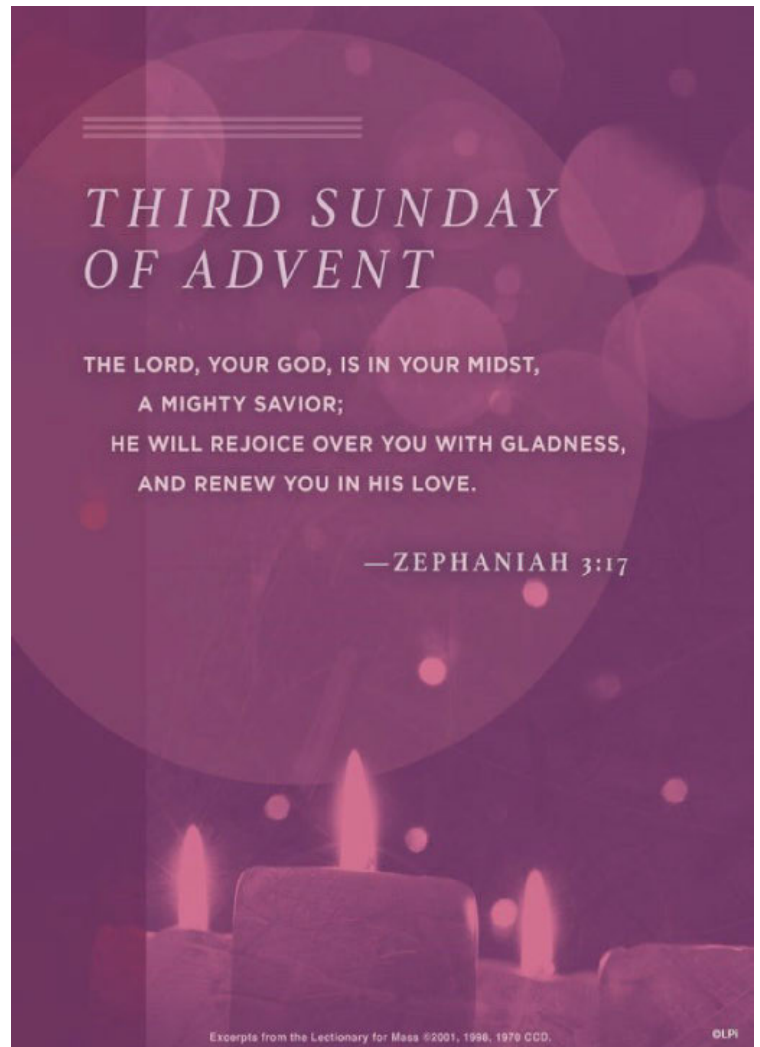
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Queen of Angels Catholic School

Jennifer Filak, *Principal*
724-978-0144

jfilak@queenofangelssch.org
www.queenofangelssch.org

Diocese of Greensburg
www.dioceseofgreensburg.org

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!



**PARISH ADMIN OFFICE
SCHEDULE FOR HOLIDAY
DECEMBER 21—WILL
CLOSE AT NOON THROUGH
DECEMBER 26
OPEN DECEMBER 27 AND
DECEMBER 28
CLOSED DECEMBER 29**

AND WILL REOPEN ON JANUARY 2, 2024



**Knights of Columbus
St Jude Council 9019**

Next monthly meeting:

**Monday December 18, 2023, at St Agnes
Resurrection Hall.**



**The meeting starts at 7:15 with
the Rosary.**

**St Jude Council covers the
parishes of IC, St Agnes, and St
Elizabeth Ann Seton. If you are
interested in joining the
Knights, or would like to**

**transfer to our Council,
please contact Al Borgony
at 724-864-3487 or
email a.borgony@comcast.net
You can also go to the website
at kofc.org and join online.**

**PLEASE CONSIDER HELPING
DECORATE
THE CHURCH FOR
CHRISTMAS!**

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

**Thursday,
Dec. 21**

6:30 pm.

**Questions—call
Sandy AT
724-863-5860.
Something for
everyone!**



Immaculata Men's and Women's Groups - NEXT MEETING:

Saturday, January 20th for the men's group (IMG)
Sunday, January 21st for the women's group (IWG)
6:30am in Our Lady's Plaza.

We will continue watching Season 3 of
"The Chosen". All are welcome! Feel free to bring a
friend!

St. Anne Home selling lottery calendars

St. Anne Home, Greensburg, is selling lottery
calendars for 2024, with chances to win all
year. Cost is \$30. To purchase, call 724-863-
9550 or stop in the Parish Admin Office.

ANGEL'S CORNER QUEEN OF ANGELS CATHOLIC SCHOOL

**ONLY A FEW LEFT FOR SALE - PLEASE HELP
US SELL ALL 1,000 calendars!** 2024 brings us another
great "Pot of Gold" Lottery Calendar and 365 chances of
winning! Proceeds from this major fundraising event are a
valuable source of income for Queen of Angels.

Calendars are \$30 each and run from January 1, 2024 to
December 31, 2024. 365 prizes totaling over \$13,000 and
ranging from \$25 to \$200 are available. The three digit
Daily Number of the PA Lottery 7:00 PM drawing
(excludes Double Draw second drawings) will determine
the winner.

If you have any questions, please contact Ruth Ann
Noblick Calendar Coordinator,
at rnoblick@queenofangelssch.org or 724-331-6216.

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.

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

PASTOR'S NOTES

Advent Penance Services this Week!!!! THOUGHTS WHILE TALKING TO THE SECOND GRADE

One Sunday afternoon our second graders along with their parents were preparing for their First Confession which will take place sometime in January. The director of Sacramental preparation was showing and explaining the confessional to them to give them a sneak preview of what was to come...I thought how so many adults fear going into the confessional and furthermore admitting to their sins... but the innocence of children untainted by adult fears usually brings them to a safe place of God's love. The real challenge is helping them to understand what sin is and how it affects their life. As I talked to the children while they waited their turn I went back more than 50 years to a time of great love and Grace.

My First Confession



Well it was NOT the sacramental confession that I remember as much as the one I made (as practice) to my mom. She sat on the edge of the bath tub and I knelt at her feet. I began with the proper form and recited my prayers of the beautiful ritual without fault. The hardest part was the actual confessing of the sins. For many reasons I remember this moment because I think it was truly a defining event on my faith formation.

1. I loved my mom so very much. I never yelled at her or called her names... I always wanted to make her happy... admitting my sins was admitting how many times I offended God, Dad, Grandparents and siblings of which she loved as much as she loved me.
2. The fact that at the age of seven she knew all of my sins and even if that was not true I believe that somehow, she knew even better than Santa and his elves...so, there was not going to be any omission of sins out of fear, embarrassment or denial...I was certain if I tried, or pretended not to remember she would have reminded me of two sins... the one I was hiding and the lie that I just told!

3. My mom had promised me that I would feel better about Jesus' suffering on the cross when I knew that he would forgive me for my (not faults or mistakes) sins and love me even more.

After I confessed my sins my mom leaned forward placed my head between her two hands and kissed my forehead and gave me a big hug. I looked up at her and she said: "And are you truly sorry for all your sins?" I was never so sure of anything in the whole wide world as how sorry I was for my sins!! Yes, mom...I am sorry...then I recited my act of contrition. There was no absolution; my mom would have never taken that privilege away from me to experience with the priest, just the go in peace and sin no more.

When we came out of the bathroom of course I understood more clearly than anything else why the next day was going to be great. If my mom could forgive me...if I could be honest with her...and she would still kiss me so tenderly what was it going to feel like when I received the same love from God through His priest? No catechesis or deep theological understanding of sin that I have acquired since that day has moved me so profoundly to love the opportunity of being forgiven of my sins throughout my life. The Sacrament of Reconciliation has kept me always as a guest at the Eucharistic table even in the most difficult times of later high school and college days. No matter who the priest was as I knelt at the screen I knew Jesus was there, for I knew and saw him, and still today, so clearly that day with my mom at the foot of the bath tub.

Now as a confessor (priest) I know that I represent the loving compassionate Christ. I know that as a priest I receive the children and adults alike without judgment of their sins but move in their desire to be forgiven. I also know and in the case of most children imagine myself sitting on the edge of the bathtub loving them like my mom loved me! When the sins have been confessed I utter first the words of my dear mom "are you sorry for all your sins?" and when they respond yes, I raise my hand, in the act I alone, as a priest can do, and give absolution knowing that the words, grace and presence of Christ is received as a gentle kiss. I am a good confessor because I have been loved; forgiven often of my sins by the Good Shepherd and I believe, through the Grace of my ordination, I offer true forgiveness and healing that its' equivalence cannot be known!



PASTOR'S NOTES CONTINUED

Focus...Preparation and Practice

As we walk our spiritual journey, we are called to FOCUS, PREPARE and PRACTICE.

- ✚ The *Focus* is the interior disposition that is served best free from sin.
- ✚ The *Preparation* of "Cleaning House" is do a good examination of conscience.
- ✚ The *Practice* is the use of the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Every sin can reflect our desire to hold onto things that make us comfortable. Beyond greed is pride; self-promotion; self-satisfaction and fulfillment of desires. None of these are the way to Christ or the peace and love he offers. Venial Sin is the backing away from the spirit of poverty one little step at a time until we find ourselves living in the world and not in God. When we make a good confession...truly moved by guilt and sorrow the words of absolution open us to a new Grace: to see what we need to detach from.

The process of detachment must start with the things and situation that tempt us the most and lead us to sin. As painful as it may be, it might be a need to walk away from a relationship, a habit, or pursuit. But the Grace is there for us to use every time we receive reconciliation. Detached from the greatest cause of sin frees us to work our way to clearing the pebbles once the boulders are gone. You will fill blessed...you will live in the moment for which you were created...to know the gentle kiss of God upon your forehead as the invitation to a love that is forever.

Mercy Factor versus Fear Factor - I am sure at times we have thought of confessions as a way to scare the "hell" out of someone with the notion that the priest will scream or demean us for the sins we confessed. Even though scaring the "hell" out of our soul is accomplished not by a factor of fear but a factor of mercy. The priest presupposes that the penitent is already aware of the nature of their sin as well as its gravity. The priest takes into the consideration that the desire of overcoming the sin is their goal. The priest's goal is to help them not to desire sin as a response to the love received and not with the threat of eternal damnation. Remember: an imperfect contrition (confession of guilt) is to do so in fear of Hell while a perfect contrition is done with the desire to be restored (through God's loving Mercy) to a relationship that was damaged by sin. Once we know the feeling of being separated from Jesus' love we want to enter back into that loving embrace. So even if you are a bit afraid know that only love and mercy await you!

So How Long has it been?

I know that many parents are embarrassed to admit that their last confession was too long to be an example to their children and far too long to be effective in their own pursuit of the kingdom. But that changes in an instant...and so does our lives once we approach the gift of love and mercy from Christ who gave his life for our sins!!

8DAYS LEFT: THINGS TO THINK ABOUT AND TO DO....

THINK ABOUT MARY



Think about Mary, in the last days of pregnancy. For most mothers-to-be, it is a time of deep anxiety as well as excitement. Physically there is tiredness, heaviness and discomfort and the awareness that life will be radically different, forever, once the baby is born.

For Mary there was more to cope with, too. How had the last nine months been for her? Had she feared rejection by Joseph? How had their relationship been affected by it all? Was she socially an outcast for being pregnant out of wedlock? That journey to Bethlehem, so close to the start of her labor, must have been agony for her. And then there was nowhere to stay at the end of it.

We have so sanitized the story of the Nativity that there's a tendency to think it all rather quaint. I rather think that Mary was no stranger to pain or to fear as she gave birth to her first baby, a long way from home, in a dirty stable. No one made any exception for her because she was special.

Or think about Joseph - what emotional turmoil had he gone through before God sent an angel to speak to him in a dream? How would you have felt if your fiancé became pregnant, and not by you? Were there times when he questioned his sanity in believing such an incredible tale?



DO I NEED TO GO TO THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION?

At first, we may think that we have been doing quite well since our last confession. We look at the Ten Commandments and

at first glance they seem not to apply. Well if you have any question whether receiving sacramental forgiveness is necessary for you take a look at the examination of conscience below... If none of these apply to you then count yourself among the Saints... but if you find that some or all apply to you then Tuesday night is for you.

MY RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

Am I faithful to daily prayer?
Am I faithful to Sunday Mass?
Am I going to Mass and say my prayers just to fulfill an obligation?

Ask yourself further and our Lord Further:

Do I trust God's loving care for me?
Do I read Scripture, so I may know and hear God?
Do I try to seek God's will, not mine, in prayer?
Am I angry with, or afraid of God? Why?

MY RELATIONSHIP WITH FAMILY/FRIENDS

Have I failed to respect a family member, Friend?
Have I failed to accept anyone just as he/she is?
Have I been patient with another's differences?
Have I been tolerant of others shortcomings?
Have I been sensitive to another's needs?
Can I be forgiving, Lord as you forgive?
Am I nursing a grudge?
Do I criticize and find fault?
Do I show positive acts of kindness?

MY RELATIONSHIP WITH EVERYONE

Do I despise any group of people?
Do I discriminate against any group of people?
Do I consider groups or individuals inferior to me?
Have I refused to help someone in need?

PENANCE SERVICE AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION TUESDAY DECEMBER 19, 2023 6:30 P.M.

MY RELATIONSHIP WITH CREATION

Have I spoiled any part of creation?
Have I abused animals by cruelty or neglect?
Have I been wasteful?
Am I too fond of money?
Do I see my gifts as a way to share love?
Am I generous
Do I drive responsibly and considerately of others?
Do I make positive contributions to the community?
Do I take my vocation seriously and fulfill my responsibilities?

MY RELATIONSHIP WITH MYSELF

Do I feel angry often?
Do I act as If I am God?
Do I expect others to do what I want, when I want?
Do I accept God's love for me?
Am I seeking to know God's will?
Am I unwilling to say "yes" to God's will?
Do I prefer my own plans?
Do I cherish and care for my body as a gift of God?
Have I been lustful?
Have I abused drugs or alcohol?
Have I misused my sexuality?
Have I viewed pornography?
Have I been impure with myself ?
Have I been greedy?
Have I been lazy?

DECEMBER 17, 2023 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

CANDLES

Sanctuary Candle: In Memory of Darrell Dole by
Wife & Children

Easter Flame Candle: In Memory of Michele Ruby, Liddie
Blank, Barb Dubosky by Courtney

Divine Mercy Candle: In Memory of Bernard & Marion
Arendas by Family

St. Peregrine Candle: In Memory of Michael Scott Borland
by Mom

St. Joseph's Candle: In Memory of William Rothwell by
Mary Lou

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 17 - Third Sunday of Advent

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

December 24- Third Sunday of Advent

2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16
Romans 16:25-27
Luke 1:26-38

Prayers and Sympathy



Please pray for Kathy Herchko's family for the passing of her mother Joyce Rowan, and 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 Email her at: sgesmond@dioceseofgreensburg.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 sgesmond@dioceseofgreensburg.org

724-863-9550 to update and/or obtain your clearances.

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 should email Susan Cheplic at skcheplic@dioceseofgreensburg.org to register for Baptism Preparation.

Confession

Tuesday: 5:15 - 6:15 p.m. & Saturday: 9 - 10 a.m.

Immaculate Conception

Parish offers

Online Giving

For additional information

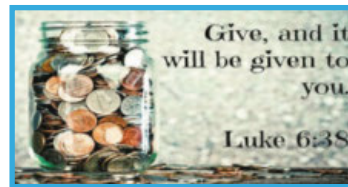
visit our website at:

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 -
Dec 2/3 is
\$21,887.80**

Online Giving - 11/27-12/3/23 \$6,644.85

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

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.



CHRISTMAS is filled with symbols – here are a few legends and meanings associated with some popular traditions, activities and decorations. All of them can be beautiful, joyful, and even fun reminders of the true meaning of Christmas – The Birth of Jesus Christ.

CHRISTMAS: Christ's Mass – the celebration of His birth.

XMAS: While *Xmas* might seem a secular way to "cross Christ out of Christmas", take heart as the word can also be seen as a Christian abbreviation for Christmas. Christ was often written as XP (chi rho), an ancient Greek symbol. But, still so much better to spell it out!!



STAR: The Christmas Star guided the Three Kings to the manger.



HOLLY: The jagged edges of the holly leaf remind Christians of the crown of thorns; the red holly berries represent Christ's blood.



MISTLETOE: A Christmas symbol of love and a reminder that God loves us. Mistletoe lives off the tree to which it is attached. If it were taken from the tree, and if any person removed from God's love, both would no longer live.



CHRISTMAS TREE/EVERGREENS: They retain green needles or leaves all year round, symbolizing perseverance, resiliency and hope.



GIFTS: Our greatest gift, of course, is Jesus. The wise men who brought gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh to honor the infant king inspired the concept of gift-giving at Christmas.



TINSEL: A legend tells of a poor, faithful family who wished to decorate a Christmas tree in honor of the Christ Child but who had no money for decorations. In the night, spiders came and spun webs across the tree. The Christ Child, honoring the family's faith, turned the threads into silver.



CANDLES AND CHRISTMAS LIGHTS: They represent Christ, the Light of the World.



BELLS: They herald joyful celebrations. Historically, bells were part of the Jewish high priest's garb. Christmas bells not only symbolize the joy of Christmas; they also remind us that Christ is the High Priest.



CANDY CANE: Shaped like a shepherd's crook, it reminds us that Jesus, the Good Shepherd, came into our world at Christmas. The red stripe symbolizes Christ's sacrifice and the white background His purity.



GINGERBREAD MAN: Remind us of God's creation of Adam in the Garden of Eden, and God's creation of each of us. Spices make the gingerbread man the color of earth (Adam was created from the dust of the earth). Also, like us, gingerbread people are not immortal (after all, we eat them!!)



SANTA CLAUS: Santa Claus, of course, is an alteration of Saint Nicholas whose generosity was transferred to the "jolly old man" who delivers gifts anonymously on Christmas Eve.



WREATH: Wreaths can combine several Christmas symbols including holly, evergreens, tinsel, lights, candles, etc., and due to the circular shape, symbolizes eternity, the circle of life, and endless hope.



STOCKING: Filling stockings with gifts comes from another tradition regarding Saint Nicholas. One legend is that three poor women in need of marriage dowries, hung their stockings by the fireplace to dry. The saint, aware of their plight, threw money into their house, landing in the stockings.



REINDEER: Because Santa Claus, a.k.a. St. Nicholas, was popular in Scandinavia (where reindeer live), they became associated with him.



CHRISTMAS CAROLS: Carols remind us of the angels who announced the birth of Christ by singing, "Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His people on earth!"



SNOWMAN: Associated with Christmas in the Northern Hemisphere, where snow often covers the ground at this season. As snowmen melt in the warmth of the sun, so our cold hearts will melt when we understand the Son's love and sacrifice for us.



RED and GREEN: Red is the color of holly berries and green the color of evergreens, both of which are associated with Christmas. Red reminds us of the blood of Christ, and green is the color of grass and vegetation - life.



ANGEL: God's messengers.



POINSETTIA: One story about this Christmas flower involves a poor Mexican girl who had no gift to present the Christ Child at Christmas Eve services. She made a small bouquet of common roadside weeds and sheepishly presented them at the nativity scene. Suddenly, the bouquet burst into star-shaped blooms of brilliant red, and became known as Flowers of the Holy Night.

Dementia Support Group:
this group is for anyone dealing with a loved one who has dementia. Dementia Friendly Faith Community support Group meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 6:30 pm in the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish Center. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 2, 2024. For more information about the Support Group, contact Gail Henderson at 412-848-2076 or email at gailhend@comcast.net

PRAY FOR LIFE

If you are unable to join the March for Life in Washington, DC, please consider joining The Greensburg Diocesan Council of the National Women (DCCW) for a day of prayer (you may come and go as needed).

When: Friday, January 19, 2024

Where: Christ Our Shepherd Center
Greensburg, PA

Schedule: 11:30 am—Rosary for priests
Noon—Mass
Rosary for Life
Stations of the Cross for Life
3:00 pm—Divine Mercy Chaplet
3:30 pm—Litany for Life
4:00 pm—Closing Prayer



Find Advent penance services, Christmas Masses and activities online

As we journey through Advent toward the birth of our Savior, the [Accentonline.org](https://theaccentonline.org) has compiled a list of activities, Advent penance services and Christmas Mass schedules throughout the Diocese of Greensburg. Information provided by parishes is available at theaccentonline.org.

Support Ukrainian Refugee Fund
Support is needed for the Ukrainian Refugee Fund administered by Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Greensburg, which provides assistance to individuals and families who have been forced to leave their homelands because of war. Visit charitiesgreensburg.org/donate/donate-now/ to donate.
More than 100 families are on a waiting list to resettle in Western Pennsylvania.

Cancer support group meets monthly at St. Barbara Parish, Harrison City
The St. Peregrine cancer support group meets monthly (usually the third Wednesday at 7 p.m.) at St. Barbara Parish, Harrison City. All cancer survivors and caregivers are welcome. The next meetings are Wednesday, Dec. 20 and Jan. 17.

THE CHRIST CHILD'S GIFT OF PEACE

I have come to bring you peace.

Not the peace of the season, for it is too fleeting,
Not the peace of the carol, for it is nostalgic,
Not the peace of the greeting card, for it is too slick,
Not the peace of the crib, for it is too wistful.

Rather, I have come to bring you peace,
Peace of the ordinary, the daily, the homely,
Peace for the worker, the driver, the student,
Peace in the office, the kitchen, the farm.

I have come to bring you peace,
The peace of accepting yourself as I fashioned you.

The peace of knowing yourself as I know you,
The peace of loving yourself as I love you,
The peace of being yourself as I am who I am.

I have come to bring you peace,
The peace that warms you at the completion of a task,
The peace that invades you at the close of the day,
The peace that sustains you at the beginning of the day,
The peace that reinforces you when you are reconciled with one another.
The peace that touches you when your family is in order.

Without peace, my coming is unfulfilled.
Without peace, my birth is forgettable.
Without peace, Christmas is a contradiction.

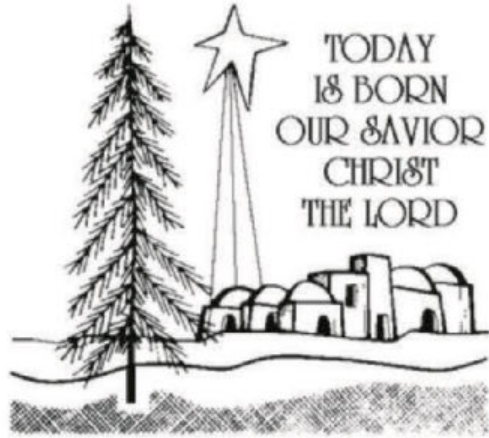
I have come to bring you peace.

Christmas Schedule 2023

REGIONAL PENANCE SERVICES:

Tuesday, December 19..... 6:30 p.m.
 Immaculate Conception, Irwin
 Wednesday, December 20..... 6:30 p.m.
 St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, North Huntingdon
 Thursday, December 21..... 6:30 p.m.
 St. Agnes, North Huntingdon

Please see parish bulletin for additional confession times.



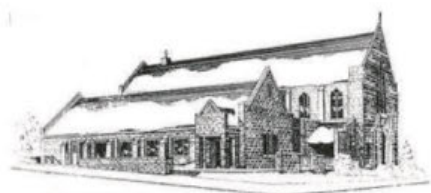
REGIONAL MASS SCHEDULE:

	<u>St. Agnes</u>	<u>Immaculate Conception</u>	<u>St. Elizabeth Ann Seton</u>
<i>Christmas Eve</i> Sunday, December 24	(Morning Masses 9 & 11:15am) 4:00 p.m., 7:00 p.m., & 10:00 p.m.	(Morning Mass 8, 10 & 11:30 am) 4:00 p.m., 6:00 p.m., 8:00 p.m. & 12:00 midnight	(Morning Masses 8:30 & 11:30am) 4:00 p.m. & 8:00 p.m.
<i>Christmas Day</i> Monday, December 25	10:30 a.m.	9:30 a.m.	9:00 a.m.
<i>New Year's Eve</i> Sunday, December 31	(Morning Masses 9 & 11:15am) 4:00 p.m.	8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m., 11:30 a.m.	8:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m.
<i>New Year's Day</i> Monday, January 1 <i>Solemnity of Mary the Holy Mother of God</i>	9:00 a.m.	9:30 a.m.	9:00 a.m.



"Behold, the virgin shall be with child and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel" which means "God is with us."

-MATTHEW 1:23



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

Irwin, Pennsylvania

Office of Liturgical Music Ministry

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 17, 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

Savior of the Nations, Come

NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND

1. Sav - ior of the na - tions, come; Show the
2. Not by hu - man flesh and blood, By the
3. Won - drous birth! O won - drous child Of the
4. God Cre - a - tor is his source, Back to
5. Now your low - ly man - ger bright Hal - lows

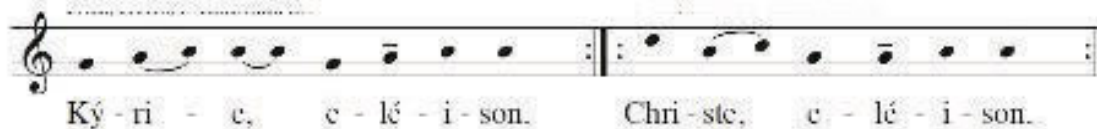
1. glo - ry of the Son! Mar - vel now, O
2. spir - it of our God Was the word of
3. Vir - gin un - de - filed! Might - y God and
4. God he runs his course, Down to death and
5. night with new - born light; Let no night this

1. heav'n and earth, That our Lord chose such a birth.
2. God made flesh, Wom - an's off - spring, pure and fresh.
3. man in one, Ea - ger now his race to run!
4. hell de - scends, God's high throne he re - as - cends.
5. light sub - due, Let our faith shine ev - er new.

Text: 77 77; *Veni, Redemptor gentium*; Martin Luther, 1483–1546, after St. Ambrose of Milan, 340–397;
Verses 1–3a tr. by William M. Reynolds, 1812–1876; Verses 3b–5 tr. by Martin L. Seltz, 1909–1967, alt.
Music: *Geystliche Gesangk Büchleyn*, Wittenberg, 1524.



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(Then repeat the first Kyrie.)

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring glad tidings to the
poor, to heal the brokenhearted, to
proclaim liberty to the captives and release
to the prisoners, to announce a year of
favor from the LORD and a day of
vindication by our God. I rejoice heartily in
the LORD, in my God is the joy of my
soul; for he has clothed me with a robe of
salvation and wrapped me in a mantle of
justice, like a bridegroom adorned with a
diadem, like a bride bedecked with her
jewels. As the earth brings forth its plants,
and a garden makes its growth spring up,
so will the Lord GOD make justice and
praise spring up before all the nations.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Luke 1

Michael Joncas

***My soul rejoices in my God;
my soul rejoices in my God.***

SECOND READING 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Brothers and sisters: Rejoice always. Pray
without ceasing. In all circumstances give
thanks, for this is the will of God for you in
Christ Jesus. Do not quench the Spirit.
Do not despise prophetic utterances.
Test everything; retain what is good.
Refrain from every kind of evil. May the
God of peace make you perfectly holy
and may you entirely, spirit, soul, and body,

be preserved blameless for the coming of
our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls
you is faithful, and he will also accomplish
it.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL READING

John 1:6-8, 19-28

A man named John was sent from God.
He came for testimony, to testify to the
light, so that all might believe through him.
He was not the light, but came to testify to
the light. And this is the testimony of John.
When the Jews from Jerusalem sent priests
and Levites to him to ask him, "Who are
you?" He admitted and did not deny it, but
admitted, "I am not the Christ." So they
asked him, "What are you then? Are you
Elijah?" And he said, "I am not." "Are you
the Prophet?" He answered, "No." So they
said to him, "Who are you, so we can give
an answer to those who sent us? What do
you have to say for yourself?" He said: "I am
the voice of one crying out in the desert,
'make straight the way of the Lord,'" as Isaiah
the prophet said." Some Pharisees were also
sent. They asked him, "Why then do you
baptize if you are not the Christ or Elijah
or the Prophet?" John answered them,
"I baptize with water; but there is one
among you whom you do not recognize,
the one who is coming after me, whose
sandal strap I am not worthy to untie." This
happened in Bethany across the
Jordan, where John was baptizing.

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 Scriptures. 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.

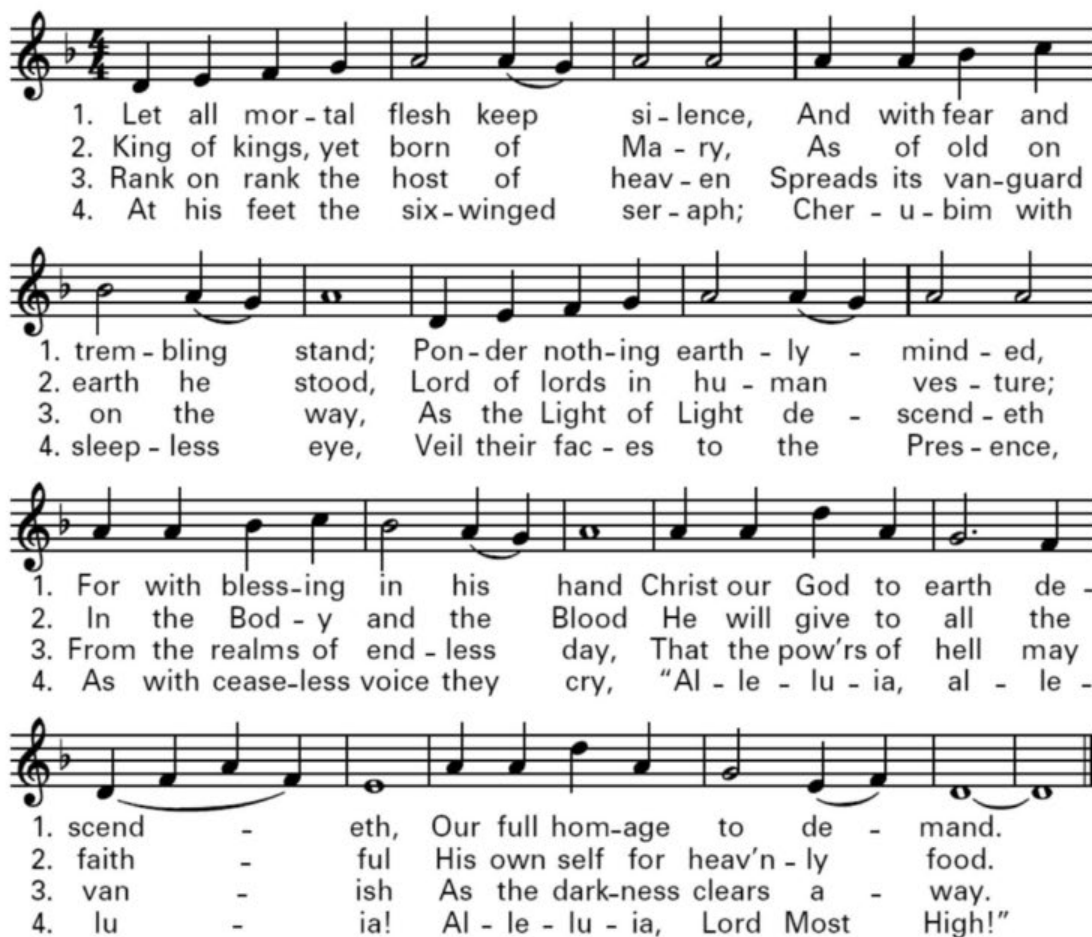
PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PREPARATION OF GIFTS

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

PICARDY



1. Let all mor-tal flesh keep si-lence, And with fear and
2. King of kings, yet born of Ma-ry, As of old on
3. Rank on rank the host of heav-en Spreads its van-guard
4. At his feet the six-winged ser-aph; Cher-u-bim with

1. trem-bling stand; Pon-der noth-ing earth-ly - mind-ed,
2. earth he stood, Lord of lords in hu-man ves-ture;
3. on the way, As the Light of Light de-scend-eth
4. sleep-less eye, Veil their fac-es to the Pres-ence,

1. For with bless-ing in his hand Christ our God to earth de-
2. In the Bod-y and the Blood He will give to all the
3. From the realms of end-less day, That the pow'rs of hell may
4. As with cease-less voice they cry, "Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-

1. scend - eth, Our full hom-age to de-mand.
2. faith - ful His own self for heav'n-ly food.
3. van - ish As the dark-ness clears a-way.
4. lu - ia! Al-le-lu-ia, Lord Most High!"


EUCCHARISTIC ACCLAMATIONS

Heritage Mass
Owen Asltott




Ho-ly, Ho-ly, Ho - ly Lord God of hosts. Heav'n and earth are
full of your glo - ry. Ho - san-na! Ho-san-na in the high - est.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

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We pro - claim your Death, O Lord, and pro - fess your
Res-ur-rec-tion un - til you come, un - til you come a - gain.

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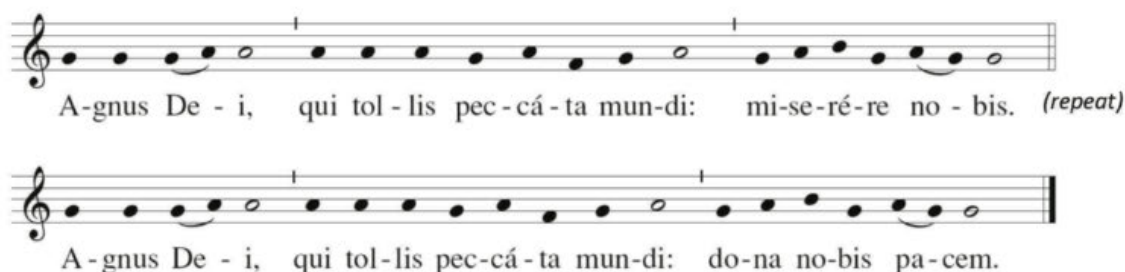


A - men, a - men, a - men.

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AGNUS DEI

Chant, Mass XVIII




A-gnus De - i, qui tol - lis pec - cá - ta mun-di: mi-se-ré-re no - bis. *(repeat)*
A - gnus De - i, qui tol-lis pec-cá - ta mun-di: do-na no-bis pa-cem.

Music: Vatican Edition XVIII; acc. by Richard Proulx

COMMUNION HYMN

Proclaim the Greatness of God



Pro - claim the great-ness of God; re - joice in God, my
Sav - ior! Re - joice in God, my Sav - ior!

Text: Luke 1:46-55; James J. Chepponis
Music: James J. Chepponis
© 1980, GLA Publications, Inc.

RECESSIONAL HYMN

People, Look East



1. Peo - ple, look East. The time is near Of the
2. Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, One more
3. Birds, though you long have ceased to build, Guard the
4. Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim One more
5. An - gels, an - nounce with shouts of mirth Christ, who



1. crown - ing of the year. Make your house fair as you are
2. seed is plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to
3. nest that must be filled. E - ven the hour when wings are
4. light the bowl shall brim. Shin - ing be - yond the frost - y
5. brings new life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley



1. a - ble, Trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look
2. nour - ish, That in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look
3. fro - zen Now for fledg - ing - time is cho - sen. Peo - ple, look
4. weath - er, Bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look
5. hum - ming With the word, "The Lord is com - ing." Peo - ple, look



1. East, and sing to - day: Love the Guest is on the way.
2. East, and sing to - day: Love the Rose is on the way.
3. East, and sing to - day: Love the Bird is on the way.
4. East, and sing to - day: Love the Star is on the way.
5. East, and sing to - day: Love the Lord is on the way.

Eleanor Farjeon, 1881-1965
Text © 1928, Eleanor Farjeon, by perm. of Harold Ober Assoc.

French carol

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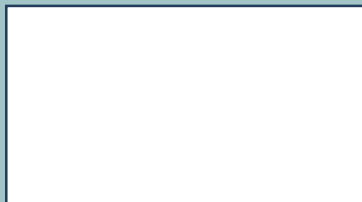
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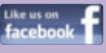
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