



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

DECEMBER 24, 2023—FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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)

Monday, December 25-The Nativity of the Lord

9:30 a.m. Patricia Antrilli (Family)

Tuesday, December 26

7:45 a.m. Our Parish Family

6:30 p.m. Month's Mind

Wednesday, December 27

7:45 a.m. Lourdes Diokno (David)

Thursday, December 28

7:45 a.m. Harriet Marino (Heather)

Friday, December 29

7:45 a.m. Barbara Dubosky (Courtney)

Saturday, December 30

8:00 a.m. Special Intentions for
Pat Donnelly III (Kathleen)

3:00 a.m. Cassell/Barker Wedding

4:30 p.m. Frank Napoleon (Judy)

Sunday, December 31

8:00 a.m. Jeff Cole (Al)

10:00 a.m. Deceased members of the Pavlick
Family (Vespi Family)

11:30 a.m. Jan Zilinskas (Lisa)

PARISH STAFF CONTACTS

Rev. John Moineau, *Pastor*

icfatherjohn@gmail.com

Rev. Louiegene Arnold Valdez, *Parochial Vicar*

lvaldez@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Courtney Ruby, *Business Manager*

cruby@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Sharyn Gesmond, *Human Resources/Event Coordinator*

sgesmond@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Bridget Deveney, *Director of Music Ministry*

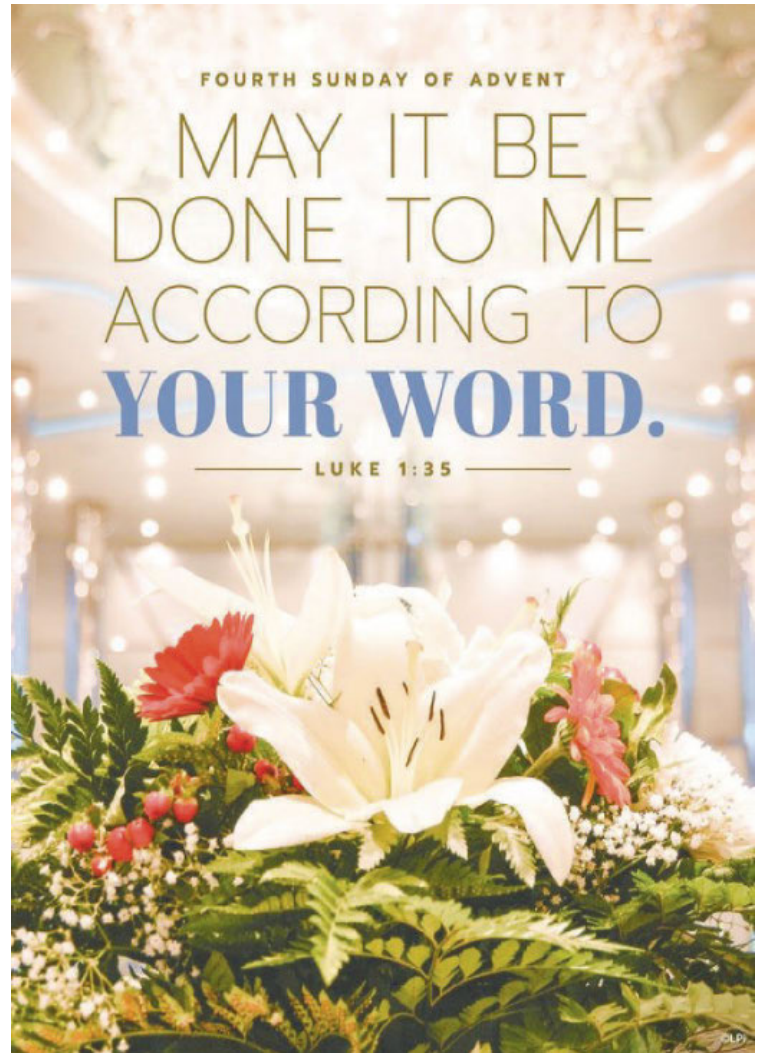
bdeveney@dioceseofgreensburg.org

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skcheplic@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 & AROUND THE DIOCESE!



Imagine how Mary felt at the birth of Jesus: excited, awed, frightened. Deep faith was her light in the darkness, for Jesus was born during the night of the year when darkness is the longest.

The number of families being served at our monthly food bank has increased to over 150. We are

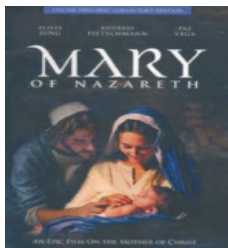
receiving a number of calls for assistance with home heating oil. Although the price of gasoline has decreased, the price of heating oil has not. Your gift is helping us provide warmth for frightened families unable to purchase heating oil. The Society of St. Vincent de Paul **thinks you** for your continued generosity and prayers.

THIS WEEK ON FORMED—

<https://watch.formed.org/>

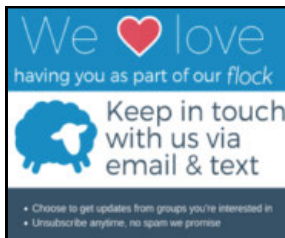
Click on Formed for Parishes & Find Immaculate Conception Catholic Church

What would it have been like to have known the Mother of God? Watch this beautiful film portraying the life of Mary in order to contemplate Mary's profound faith and the mysteries of her life.



Mother Mary, as You carried your Son in your immaculate womb, you also carried Him in your heart. Pray for me, this Advent, that I may surrender myself to the will of the Father in imitation of you. You said "Yes" to all that God asked of you and never

hesitated to fully embrace His divine will. Pray that I may imitate your perfect example so as to share a deeper union with you and your divine Son. Amen



Don't forget to sign up for Flock Note to stay in touch and in the know of all Parish Activities and Announcements—

www.flocknote.com/bvm

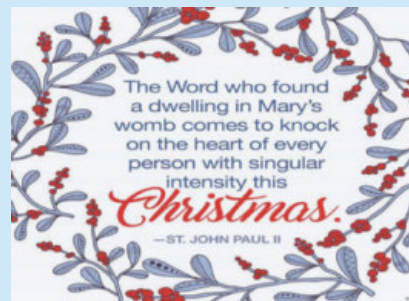
Dementia Support Group:

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

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!

✠ IMG/IWG—Immaculate Men's and Women's Group will finish the sessions on "The Chosen" the following 4 weeks: 1/20, 1/27 2/3 & 2/10/2024 6:30 a.m.

✠ PARISH ADMIN OFFICE HOLIDAY SCHEDULE: WILL CLOSE AT NOON THROUGH DEC. 26TH. OPEN DECEMBER 27TH & DECEMBER 28TH. CLOSED DECEMBER 29TH REOPEN JANUARY 2, 2024!



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



An update on the Pictorial Directory!

The layout and design of the directory is now underway and will continue for the next few months. Anyone who had their photo taken will be contacted when they arrive which will be in the Spring or later! Follow the bulletin for updates!



PASTOR'S NOTES

Overwhelmed with Christmas Gratitude!

The past three weeks of the Advent Season leads me into our celebration of Christmas with overwhelming gratitude. I am blessed to celebrate my first Christmas with Father Louiegene as my parochial vicar. He has been such a wonderful example of priesthood to me and I know that our love of serving you will grow as we share with you the life of the Church. I am so blessed for the continual prayers that you offer on my behalf during my on-going participation of cancer. Every prayer and act of love you show me reinvigorate me to carry on in the love of Christ. I am blessed to have witness so many who have shared in the Advent journey through our programs, sacred Mass and the Sacrament of Reconciliation. To be so close attention to staying AWAKE in the preparation of the coming of the Lord has been inspiring!

I want to thank all of you who have sent cards, gifts and money as a Christmas greeting this year! I am so overjoyed with the 100s who have taken time to intimately wish me a Merry Christmas! So many of you that it would be impossible for me to respond individually with the proper gratitude. I hope that you accept this "Thank you" as my acknowledgement of your love and support of my priestly ministry. Your cards were beautiful and your gifts more than generous.

Know that I offer my Mass intentions on Christmas Eve for all your intentions and in thanksgiving for your faithfulness to the mission of Christ and His Church! I love you and will always hold you in my heart in the love of the Christ Child!



People in the United States are fascinated by the song "The 12 Days of Christmas." Every year it's played over and over again on the radio. It's googled countless times. And it's often listed as one of the top Christmas songs. You're probably well familiar with the song, but do you know the Catholic roots?

What are the 12 Days of Christmas?

While secular culture begins Christmas after Thanksgiving (and sometimes even earlier!), for Catholics the Christmas season doesn't begin until Christmas Eve. Catholics celebrate the Christmas season from Jesus' birth, December 25, until the day before the Epiphany (January 6). The Epiphany is the celebration of when the three wise men visited Joseph, Mary, and Jesus in Bethlehem. Since the Church is still celebrating it's a great opportunity to leave your Christmas decorations up a little longer!

What is the Meaning of the Song "The Twelve Days of Christmas"?

The religious wars in sixteenth century England made it dangerous to be a Catholic. Many people practiced their faith in secret. As the legend goes, Catholic families courageously developed unique ways to secretly pass the faith onto their children, like "The 12 Days of Christmas." The well-known song was used to teach children

Continued on next page

PASTOR'S NOTES CONTINUED

about the Catholic Church. Although the lyrics may sound like nonsense, the song actually contains hidden references:

- **The First Day of Christmas: A Partridge in a Pear Tree** - A partridge in a pear tree symbolizes Jesus Christ, with the partridge representing Christ's willingness to sacrifice himself and the pear tree symbolizing the cross.
- **The Second Day of Christmas: Two Turtle Doves** - Two turtledoves represent the Old and New Testaments, highlighting the harmony and connection between the two.
- **The Third Day of Christmas: Three French Hens** - Three French hens signifies the three theological virtues: faith, hope, and love (or charity).



- **The Fourth Day of Christmas: Four Calling Birds** - Four calling birds symbolizes the four Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, which spread the good news of Jesus Christ's teachings.
- **The Fifth Day of Christmas: Five Golden Rings** - Five golden rings represent the first five books of the Old Testament, known as the Pentateuch emphasizing God's covenant with His people.
- **The Sixth Day of Christmas: Six Geese A-Laying** - Six geese a-laying symbolizes the six days of creation, emphasizing God's power as the creator of the world.
- **The Seventh Day of Christmas: Seven Swans A-Swimming** - Seven swans a-swimming represents the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit: wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord.
- **The Eighth Day of Christmas: Eight Maids A-Milking** - Eight maids a-milking symbolizes the eight Beatitudes preached by Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount, highlighting the virtues and blessings of a righteous life.
- **The Ninth Day of Christmas: Nine Ladies Dancing** - Nine ladies dancing represents the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.
- **The Tenth Day of Christmas: Ten Lords A-Leaping** - Ten lords a-leaping signifies the Ten Commandments, which provide guidance for a moral and righteous life.
- **The Eleventh Day of Christmas: Eleven Pipers Piping** - *The Eleven Faithful Apostles: Peter, Andrew, James the Elder, John, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James the Younger, Simon, and Jude.*
- **The Twelfth Day of Christmas: Twelve Drummers Drumming** - Twelve drummers drumming represents the twelve points of doctrine in the Apostles' Creed, which summarizes the core beliefs of Christianity.

PASTOR'S NOTES CONTINUED

FROM HIS BIRTH TO HIS RESURRECTION



Note: I know that the holidays are often marked with sadness for those who have gone before us. I pray for all of us that the promise of our savior Jesus Christ will bring peace to know he has taken them home to heaven. The birth of Christ is the beginning of our celebration of eternal life that is magnified at Easter in His Resurrection. May our Catholic Cemetery of Immaculate Conception always be a place of peace, joy and hope in the Resurrection!

Twelve years ago, when "Uncle Skip" died it left its deepest and most profound effect on Sara (5yrs) and Ashton (4yrs), two of his many great nieces and nephews. Ashton and Sara, while helping in the process of emptying a house of 80 years of life would honor their uncle by rescuing a souvenir at each visit. For Ashton, who had deemed himself "the worker", would select a hammer, saw, screwdriver or wrench from the basement in memory. Sara, who was interested in remnants of Skip's wife's collection of trinkets would bring home a small music or jewelry box, a picture of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, or of our Blessed Lady and a rosary for her memorial.

This was by no means pilfering the spoils of a dead man but a true picking of salvageable images of a good God-fearing and hard-working man that was much admired. Each visit to the house always ended with a tear of sorrow and a heartfelt loss expressed by one "I miss Uncle Skip" while the other was quick to console with the comforting affirmation that they too missed him and I wish he would not have had to die! Grandma's answer would always be the simple truth: ***Uncle Skip loves you and now he does from heaven!***

Many years later, and most recently Ashton and Sara lost their great-grandparents and the sorrow and loss was even more profound since they were a part of their everyday life growing up. The words that grandma spoke at the time of Uncle Skips death were the lynchpin of hope that they would apply to the loss of their great grandparents: "They are not among the dead but the living" in heaven and with them always.

Sara, of course, who you know as the Christmas Angel, and I were talking about cemeteries, death and the



need to see it with hope and joy instead of despair and loss. We talk about it for a brief time and I realize she had a great grasp of life after death and the relationships that we can still have with those who have gone before us. Cemeteries and the sacred places which we may visit not the dead but to remember the living.

I want to share a reflection that Sara wrote per our conversation and I hope it helps you to see if we understand Jesus' birth into our lives and also hope in the fulfillment of that promise in heaven. From Christmas angel, to the angel at the tomb of Jesus, who said to Mary Magdala: ***"Why do you look for the living***

among the dead...they are not here!"

The Land of the Living Dead: A Different View of Cemeteries

Continued on next page



The old foreground trees are beginning to lose their golden-brown leaves, littering the lavish green grass with beautiful reds and yellows. Faux-flowers that are matched to the season are in a bouquet on the front and sides of the gray headstones. The sun's rays are shining down upon the hills of the vast cemetery, and all is calm in the world. I stand in front of my great grandparents' grave—and my mind is quiet. Studying the sun's reflection upon a smooth block of maroon granite, examining the solar lights that are set on either side, taking note of the new bed of rocks laid around—the grave is loved. Yet, as my eyes trail past the engraving of their last name, my heart begins to beat quicker. A mournful feeling swirls around in the pit of my stomach, missing their life so much. As I read their names over and over again—the dates of birth and death—I see them standing there before me. My pap's loving gaze meets my eyes, his hand slightly extended waiting for my ritual hug. My nan stands next to him, her usually stern look has

been replaced with a peaceful smile—and her eyes have a twinkle to them that I have never seen before. That painful weight in my stomach is lifted and a light sense rises into the beat of my heart. My mind fills with memories of them sitting down for Sunday brunch, my pap taking my cousin and I golfing at his favorite driving range, and my nan telling us to quiet down for the third time as she cooks in the kitchen. I had only known them for 16 years, but they had lived full lives of pain and sorrow, joy and happiness, sickness and health—but now they live a life of pure bliss. They are at peace in the heavens, watching over me and my life to which I still have so much to experience. My grandparents' grave is not just a piece of stone that sits on the ground in a yard of other various stones—their grave is the symbol of the life they lived, and the heaven they now live in.

I draw my eyes away from the headstone and begin to walk up and down the aligned rows within the cemetery gates. I see a concrete slab with a bear engraved into the front. Words carved into others: "Our Son," "Mom and Dad," "Nurse and Loving Mother," "Husband and Wife." Simple yet lasting sayings like "Together Forever," and "In Loving Memory of," and "Forever in Our Hearts." Portraits of people, engravings of golf clubs, pictures of angles, war statements, wedding bands, and small knickknacks sat on the edges of the headstones. The cemetery is not full of meaningless dull name plaques, the cemetery is full of stories—lives lived to their fullest and memories documented. Behind that thick finished stone, under the ground which our feet walk upon, and engraved within the names of people, is a physical life that has been lived and a destined soul bound life.

Horror movies have branded cemeteries as the "Land of the living dead"—and even though they are referencing zombies and mummies—the cemetery actually is a place of the living dead. People have passed from our lives, but they still continue to peacefully live in the presence of God. Heaven bound souls that have left their physical bodies on earth, reside within the gates of heaven, and their graves stand as windows into that hopeful life. Those of us who know loved ones that have passed are reminded of the good—and the bad—times when we visit the cemetery. We are reminded of the love we shared and still continue to share with those who have left us. And we hope that, one day in the future when we fulfill a similar destiny, that those who we have touched will stand there, on the ground before our graves, and feel similar things. For when one leaves us physically, God allows them to still live on within our memories, our love, and our souls. One grave site in particular had a small plaque with the following words displayed: ***"Those we love don't go away, they walk beside us every day, unseen, unheard, but always near, so loved, so missed, so very dear."***

Walking through the cemetery reminds me that death is not something to be afraid of, nor is it an end to life. When the time comes, my life will not simply end with the snap of a finger. My soul will continue to live on in heaven, and my life will still be alive in the heartbeats of those dear to me—just like my grandparents, and just like everyone who lives in the light of the Lord. ***"I thought of you with love today, but that is nothing new. I thought about you yesterday, and days before that too. Your memory is my keepsake, with which I'll never part. God has you in His keep, I have you in my heart."***

DECEMBER 24, 2023 FOURTH 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,
By Family

Readings of the Week

December 24— Fourth Sunday of Advent

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

December 31- The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

Sirach	3:2-6, 12-14
Colossians	3:12-17
Luke	22:2-40

Prayers and Sympathy

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



Psalm 27:4-5

Heavenly Father, I look to You! One thing I ask of You is
that I will dwell in Your house all the days of my life so
that I may gaze upon Your beauty and seek You in Your
temple. Lord, in the day of trouble You will keep me safe
in Your dwelling; You will hide me in the shelter of Your
tabernacle. Oh Lord, help me find my way to Your dwell-
ing because the grief is overwhelming, Amen.

Homebound Ministry

If you know of any family, neighbors, or fellow pa-
rishioners 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 please 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 OFFERTORY:

Sunday Offertory - Dec 9/10 \$20,190.42

Online Giving -12/4-12/11 \$3,878.35

Feast of the Immaculate Conception \$3,438.00

Diocesan Poverty Relief Fund \$1,439.00

Retired Religious Fund \$1,747.00

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

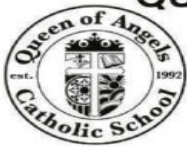
Matters of Sexual Misconduct Information

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 con-
tact the Bishop's Delegate for Matters of Sexual Misconduct
after you have called the ChildLine number and made the re-
port. The Bishop's Delegate may be reached at 724-837-0901,
ext. 1221.

**ANGEL'S CORNER
QUEEN OF ANGELS CATHOLIC SCHOOL**



**Queen of Angels Catholic School
would like to wish all our families
and friends throughout the
community bountiful Christmas
blessings of PEACE, HEALTH, and
HAPPINESS during this holy season
and in the new year.
Merry Christmas!**



QUEEN OF ANGELS CATHOLIC SCHOOL

TODDLER-TWO PROGRAM

This "Toddler Time" Parent/Child Program is designed for children and their parent or caregiver to come together to play and learn.

A typical session will include: Exploratory Play, Arts & Crafts, Circle Time (a gentle introduction to group time) and Snack.

- ✓ WHO: 2-3 year old children with a parent or caregiver (Must be 2 before session starts)
- ✓ WHERE: Queen of Angels Catholic School
- ✓ WHEN: 1 hour class – Monday AND/OR Wednesday
TIME: 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM
- ✓ SESSIONS AVAILABLE: Each session is 8 weeks
Fall Oct 2nd/4th- Dec 4th/6th
Winter - Jan 8th/10th- Feb 26th/28th
Spring- March 4th/6th- May 6th/8th
- ✓ Cost per session: \$80 for 1 day per week or \$150 for 2 days per week

REGISTRATION FORM

IF INTERESTED, PLEASE SEND FORM AND PAYMENT TO THE SCHOOL OFFICE:

ONE MAIN ST. NORTH HUNTINGDON, PA 15642. YOU MAY ALSO REGISTER AT

[HTTPS://FORMS.OFFICE.COM/R/R3SC5W5CEF](https://forms.office.com/R/R3SC5W5CEF) OR SCAN THE QR CODE



Toddler Two Registration 2023



Guardian's Name: _____

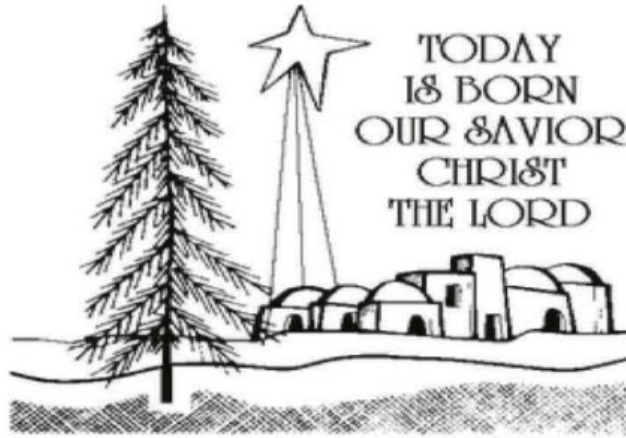
Child's Name: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

Session: _____ Fall _____ Winter _____ Spring

Day: _____ Monday _____ Wednesday _____ Monday & Wednesday

Christmas Schedule 2023



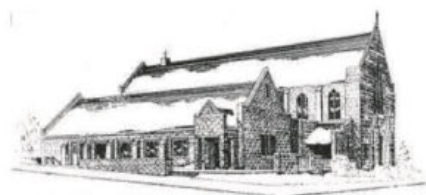
REGIONAL MASS SCHEDULE:

	<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 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 24, 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

Come, O Long Expected Jesus



1. Come, O long ex - pect - ed Je - sus,
2. Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion,
3. Born your peo - ple to de - liv - er;
4. By your own e - ter - nal Spir - it



Born to set your peo - ple free; From our fears and
You, the hope of all the earth, Dear de - sire of
Born a child and yet a king! Born to reign in
Rule in all our hearts a - lone; By your all suf -



sins re - lease us; Free us from cap - tiv - i - ty.
ev - 'ry na - tion, Come, and save us by your birth.
us for ev - er, Now your grac - ious king - dom bring.
fi - cient mer - it Raise us to your glo - rious throne.

Text: Haggai 2:7; Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.

Tune: STÜTTGART, 8 7 8 7; Christian F. Witt, 1660-1716; adapt. by Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805-1876



(Then repeat the first Kyrie.)

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING 2 Samuel 7:1-5,8b-12,14a,16

When King David was settled in his palace, and the LORD had given him rest from his enemies on every side, he said to Nathan the prophet, "Here I am living in a house of cedar, while the ark of God dwells in a tent!" Nathan answered the king, "Go, do whatever you have in mind, for the LORD is with you." But that night the LORD spoke to Nathan and said: "Go, tell my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD: Should you build me a house to dwell in?' It was I who took you from the pasture and from the care of the flock to be commander of my people Israel. I have been with you wherever you went, and I have destroyed all your enemies before you. And I will make you famous like the great ones of the earth. I will fix a place for my people Israel; I will plant them so that they may dwell in their place without further disturbance. Neither shall the wicked continue to afflict them as they did of old, since the time I first appointed judges over my people Israel. I will give you rest from all your enemies. The LORD also reveals to you that he will establish a house for you. And when your time comes and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your heir after you, sprung from your loins, and I will make his kingdom firm. I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me. Your house and your kingdom shall endure forever before me; your throne shall stand firm forever."

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Psalm 89
Michel Guimont

*For ever I will sing
the goodness of the Lord.*

SECOND READING Romans 16:25-27

Brothers and sisters: To him who can strengthen you, according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret for long ages but now manifested through the prophetic writings and, according to the command of the eternal God, made known to all nations to bring about the obedience of faith, to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ be glory forever and ever. Amen.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL READING Luke 1:26-38

The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming to her, he said, "Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you." But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God." "Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." But Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?" And the angel said to her in reply, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren; for nothing will be impossible for God." Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

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

The Angel Gabriel From Heaven Came



1. The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came, His
2. "For know a bless - ed Moth - er you shall be, All
3. Then gen - tle Ma - ry meek - ly bowed her head; "To
4. Of her, Em - man - u - el, the Christ, was born In

1. wings as drift - ed snow, his eyes as flame; "All
2. gen - er - a - tions praise con - tin - ual - ly, Your
3. me be as it pleas - es God!" she said. "My
4. Beth - le - hem, all on a Christ - mas morn; And

1. hail," said he, "O low - ly maid - en Ma - ry,"
2. Son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told."
3. soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy his ho - ly name."
4. Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say: } "Most

1-4. high - ly fa - vored la - dy!" Glo - ri - a!

Text: 10 10 12 10; *Birgina gaztettobat zegoen*; Trad. Basque Carol; tr. by Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834-1924, alt.
Music: Trad. Basque Carol Melody.

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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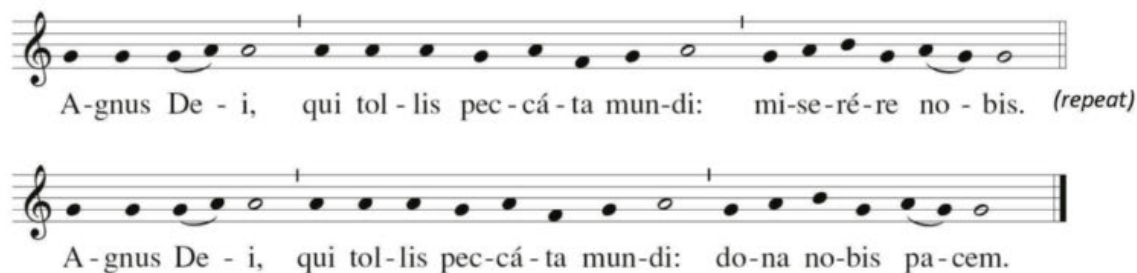


A - men, a - men, a - men.

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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

My Soul in Stillness Waits

Refrain



Text: Psalm 95 and "O" Antiphons; Marty Haugen, b.1950
Tune: Marty Haugen, b.1950
© 1982, GIA Publications, Inc.

RECESSIONAL HYMN

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

ES IST EIN' ROS' ENTSPRUNGEN

1. Lo, how a Rose e'er bloom-ing From ten - der stem hath sprung!
2. I - sai - ah 'twas fore - told it, This Rose I have in mind,
3. O Flow'r, whose fra-grance ten - der With sweet-ness fills the air,

1. Of Jes-se's lin-eage com-ing, As those of old have sung.
2. With Ma-ry we be-hold it, The Vir-gin Moth-er kind.
3. Dis-pel in glo-rious splen-dor The dark-ness ev-'ry-where;

1. It came, a flow-er bright, A-mid the
2. To show God's love a-right, She bore to
3. True man, yet ver-y God, From sin and

1. cold of win-ter, When half spent was the night.
2. us a Sav-ior, When half spent was the night.
3. death now save us, And share our ev-'ry load.

Text: 76 76 6 76; based on Isaiah 11:1; Trad. German Carol, 15th cent.; tr. by Theodore Baker, 1851-1934, alt.
Music: *Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Cologne, 1599.

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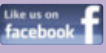
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