



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

AUGUST 25, 2024 TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday, August 24, 2024

8:00 a.m. Joanna Jordan (Family)
1:00 p.m. Stegman/Nelson Wedding
4:30 p.m. Jane Criner (Nick & Toni)

Sunday, August 25, 2024

8:00 a.m. Charles Hickey (Dad)
10:00 a.m. Irene Brooks (Darlene)
11:30 a.m. Tony Mauro (Family)

Monday, August 26, 2024

7:45 a.m. Michele Ruby (Family)

Tuesday, August 27, 2024

7:45 a.m. Our Parish Family
5:15-6:15 p.m. Confessions
6:30 p.m. Margaret Saunders (Carol)

Wednesday, August 28, 2024

7:45 a.m. Michael & Mary Litzinger (Family)

Thursday, August 29, 2024

7:45 a.m. Fr. Alvin Cabungcal (Dan & Joan)

Friday, August 30, 2024

7:45 a.m. Pete Banzon (Kandra Family)

Saturday, August 31, 2024

8:00 a.m. Special Intentions for Dona
O'Leary's 90th Birthday (Phyllis & Jim)
4:30 p.m. Mary Jane Sisteck (Family)

Sunday, September 1, 2024

8:00 a.m. Esther Wurzell (Family)
10:00 a.m. James W. Buffett (B.Y.)
11:30 a.m. Jan Zilinskas (Lisa)

PARISH STAFF

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724-837-1840

Immaculate Conception Parish Office
308 Second Street Irwin, Pa 15642
Parish Office: 724-863-9550

PASTOR'S NOTES

Are you as good as your word?

Everything in our Church is somehow related to our Baptismal commitments. Our commitments to those promises become the very principles from which we live our lives. Every minute of each and every day we are faced with choices that need to be made. Most of the time we choose based out of habit or need. Once in a while we deal with decisions that might take more time and effort. However, all of our decisions should be based on the fact that we are rooted into the life of Christ. This should be the basis and foundation from which all of our choices are made.

Our readings for this Sunday are about commitment in life. A commitment is a statement that I will be there for you, a statement that you can trust my love and support. I'll keep my word for you. Why is it that something so basic and simple can be so difficult to make a part of our lives? Commitment is hard and takes a lot of work. Every one of us can relate to a time in life when it was difficult if not impossible to be true to our commitment. Joshua in the first reading has the Israelites renewing their commitments. Many of them had fallen away from fidelity to Yahweh and had placed their trust in idols. It is easy for us to look back and judge those people for straying from their covenant relationship with Yahweh. We find it difficult to understand how they could possibly find refuge in strange gods. However, the idols that we deal with in our world are every bit as real as the ones the people had to face thousands of years ago. We must not be too judgmental of the ancient Israelites who fell prey to their own idols. Look at some of the idols we face today: power, money, possessions, body image, books, television, bigger and better homes, cars, boats, etc. etc. This list could certainly fill the space that is available for this article, but I think you get the idea.

It is not that we do not live up to our commitments; rather we keep our commitments and live them out only 50 percent of the time instead of being 100 percent committed. Once again we can see how easy it is to make a commitment but it becomes an entirely different matter to be true to them.

Jesus asks the disciples if they want to leave; he also asks us the same question. Every one of us need to look again at what our Baptism is asking of us, we all should re-evaluate those commitments and determine just how true we are to them. It is hard to give 100 per cent to our commitments, but that is what we are professing to do. Just how good of a parishioner are you, how attentive are you to the needs of your church, family and friends, are you faithful to the commitments you have made in serving a ministry, promises made to family and friends? These questions are all affected by our ability to be true to our commitments. Are we as people, as good as our word? If not, what do we have to do to change? Today we are reminded that God is ever faithful and true to a committed life of love and support. As we embrace that love, we need to be aware of the promises and commitments we have made, and with the presence of God and the gift of the Eucharist be strong enough to be true to them.

Good Stewardship....

By virtue of our Baptismal promises, we are all called to fully participate in the life of the church. This call invites us all too fully participate in the Sacramental life of our faith. The Liturgy with the Body and Blood of Christ is the summit of our Roman Catholic Faith. In trying to make it possible for all too fully participate in the Eucharist, it takes the help of many people. Sometimes we do not think about all the people involved with a liturgy, we just come and expect things to happen. But they don't happen on their own. We need many people working together to create an environment for good Liturgy. Every one of us has something that we can add. We come to mass anyway, shouldn't we offer to help!

There is always room for people to serve as: Lectors, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Altar Servers, Ushers, Children's Liturgy of the Word, Greeters, helping with Formation for our youth and adults, singing with our choir, Cantors and any other talent you may wish to share. There is certainly something that you can share. I am asking that you consider the possibility of helping with one of these ministries.

Catholic University of America

Annually, a second collection is taken in the Diocese of Greensburg to support Catholic education, both locally and nationally. Fifty percent of this collection goes to support The Catholic University of America and fifty percent is used to aid the Catholic schools here in our own Diocese.

The Catholic University in Washington, D.C. is unique among the Catholic institutions of higher education because it is the national university for the Catholic Church in the United States. It is the only higher education institution founded by the American bishops and chartered by the Vatican. Here in the Diocese of Greensburg, we have ten grade schools and two high schools that offer a holistic education that combines Christ's teachings with academic excellence and service to others. The parents of students in our 12 schools sacrifice to send to their children to a Catholic school because they recognize how important academics and Catholic values are to their child's lifelong success. Our Catholic schools are an asset to our communities, and they prepare future leaders for the Church and the nation. The support of all the faithful in the Diocese of Greensburg is critical to the success of our Catholic schools. Please be generous with this collection this weekend.

HAPPENINGS ON THE CORNER & AROUND THE DIOCESE

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton will be selling raffle tickets after Masses at Immaculate Conception this weekend. Tickets are \$10 and the drawing is for September 22, 2024.

IMMACULATA MEN'S GROUP (IMG) & IMMACULATA WOMEN'S GROUP (IWG)
Begins on Sat. 9/7 for IMG and 9/8 for IWG at 6:30 am in Our Lady's Plaza. All are welcome!



Thank you!

Thank you for all those who made our celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the Church building such a beautiful celebration!

Fr. Michael Crookston, *Pastor*

Bridget Deveney, *Director of Music*

Jacob Gruss, *Organist*

Immaculate Conception Choir

Christian Mothers/Women Guild

— SAVE —
THE DATE

SAVE THE DATE!

IC/Seton's CASH BASH will be held on Saturday, November 2 at Seton's Mack Hall. Tickets go on sale in September. Watch the bulletin for details.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday Aug 26 - Thurs. Aug 29

8 am to 1 pm

Friday Aug 30 - Closed

Monday Sept. 2 - Closed

Tuesday Sept 3 - Friday Sept 6

8 am to 1 pm

All Adults 21 years or older are invited to

Theology on the Vine



Fr. Shawn Anderson, OSB

Benedictine monk & Catholic priest, Fr. Shawn is a professor of Biology at St. Vincent College and Director of St. Vincent Archabbey Retreats Program

PRESENTS A TALK ON

Religion and Science

Thursday August 29, 2024

Doors open 6:00 pm

Program begins at 6:30 pm

OUR LADY'S PLAZA

Immaculate Conception Parish Hall

A great opportunity for Catholic adults to meet in a comfortable setting to explore our faith and how it affects our lives.

Wine, cheese and light beverages are served.

Food-Faith-Fellowship



Creation Care Team

Immaculate Conception

The Immaculate Conception Creation Care Team meets the first Wednesday of each month at 6 p.m. in the Children's Liturgy Room. The team's focus is to study the encyclical "Laudato Si, Care for Our Common Home" and to turn the Pope's vision into effective actions. For more information,



Bible Study

Deacon Jeff is leading a Bible Study on Monday evenings starting on September 15th at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Mack Hall. We will be covering the Sunday readings. Our goal is to open God's word that has been given us by the inspired writers of the bible. Each meeting will be a stand alone meeting and they will run until Advent. All you will need is your bible. For more info or to let us know you are coming please email Deacon Jeff.

jcieslewicz@dioceseofgreensburg.org

CANDLES

Sanctuary Candle:

In Memory of Michele Ruby (Courtney)

Divine Mercy:

In Memory of Rick Borland (Family)

St. Peregrine Candle:

In Memory of Paul Pushic (Wife Karen)

Easter Flame Candle:

In Memory of Linda Taylor (Family)

St. Joseph's Candle:

In Memory of Joyce Begg (Family)

Altar Candles for the Month of August:

In Memory of Michael, George, Marie & Timothy Salopek (Family)

If you would like to have a candle lit in memory of your loved one, please call the parish office. We will be glad to help you. 724-863-9550

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. (except for the first Saturday of the month)

Divine Mercy

Join us for the Divine Mercy Chaplet Monday through Friday at 3:00 pm in the church.

Please note: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton has changed their Saturday Confession Times from 11:00 a.m. to 3 p.m.

THIS SUNDAY AND NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

August 25, 2024- Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

Joshua	24:1-2a, 15-17, 18b
Ephesians	5:21-32
John	6:60-69

September 1, 2024- Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Deuteronomy	4:1-2, 6-8
James	1:17-18, 21b-22, 27
Mark	7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23



Please pray for all of our faithful departed. *Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.*

Prayer of St. Gertrude

Eternal Father, I offer Thee the Most Precious Blood of Thy Divine Son, Jesus, in union with the Masses said throughout the world today, for all the holy souls in purgatory, for sinners everywhere, for sinners in the universal church, those in my own home and within family. Amen

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 the Parish Office 724.863.9550

**ADORATION EVERY TUESDAY
AFTER 7:45 AM MASS UNTIL 6:15 PM
ALL ARE WELCOME!**

Sunday Offertory
August 17/18 - \$9,432.00

Online Giving
August 12-18 - \$4,970.50

Solemnity of the Assumption
\$2,318.40

Thank you for your generosity!

Immaculate Conception

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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!



ANGELS CORNER—QUEEN OF ANGEL CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Dear Parish Family,

As summer draws to a close, it is with great anticipation and joy that I extend a warm welcome back to our students, families, and staff as we embark on a new school year at Queen of Angels Catholic School. The start of a new academic year is always filled with excitement, hope, and the promise of growth—both academically and spiritually.

Our school is more than just a place of learning; it is a community where faith and education intertwine, where values are instilled, and where our students are encouraged to grow in their relationship with God. Each year, we are committed to nurturing not only the minds but also the hearts and souls of our students, guiding them to live out the Gospel values in their daily lives.

I invite you to join us in praying for our students, teachers, and families as we begin this journey together. May God's grace guide our steps, may His wisdom fill our minds, and may His love be ever-present in all that we do.

We look forward to a year of learning, growth, and deepened faith, and we are grateful for your continued support and prayers. Together, we will make this school year one of our best yet.

Blessings,
Mrs. Filak

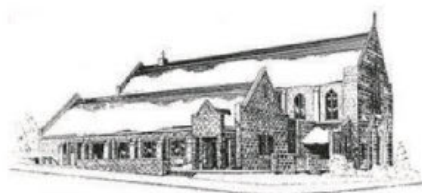


Thank You

Thank you and Address Change!

Thank you to everyone who was able to celebrate my Candidacy with me last Sunday. It was such a blessing being able to celebrate that in our parish church during such a milestone event as the 100th anniversary of our church building! For those who like to keep in touch, please note that the seminary campus moved this summer so this is the new mailing address:

Tyler Randolph c/ o St. Charles Borromeo Seminary
1400 Evans Road
Ambler, PA 19002



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH
Irwin, Pennsylvania
Office of Liturgical Music Ministry

THE TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

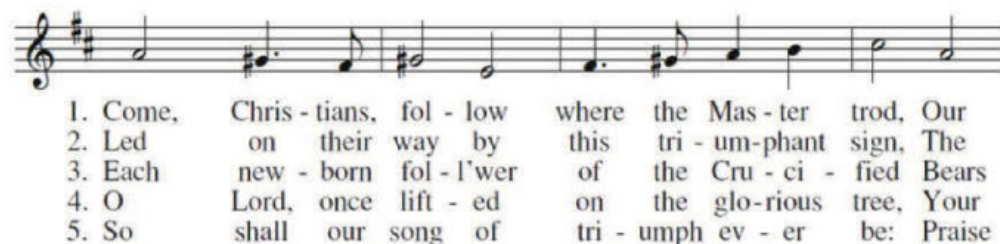
August 25, 2024 - Order of the Mass

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

Lift High the Cross



Text: 1 Corinthians 1:18; George W. Kitchin, 1827-1912, and Michael R. Newbolt, 1874-1956, alt.
Tune: CRUCIFER, 10 10 with refrain; Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875-1947
© 1974, Hope Publishing Co.

GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless, you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father. Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING Joshua 24:1-2a, 15-17, 18b

Joshua gathered together all the tribes of Israel at Shechem, summoning their elders, their leaders, their judges, and their officers. When they stood in ranks before God, Joshua addressed all the people: "If it does not please you to serve the LORD, decide today whom you will serve, the gods your fathers served beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose country you are now dwelling. As for me and my household, we will serve the LORD." But the people answered, "Far be it from us to forsake the LORD for the service of other gods. For it was the LORD, our God, who brought us and our fathers up out of the land of Egypt, out of a state of slavery. He performed those great miracles before our very eyes and protected us along our entire journey and among the peoples through whom we passed. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Psalm 34

Richard Hillert

Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

SECOND READING Ephesians 5:2a, 25-32

Brothers and sisters: Live in love, as Christ loved us. Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ loved the church and handed himself over for her to sanctify her, cleansing her by the bath of water with the word, that he might present to himself the church in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. So also husbands

should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one hates his own flesh but rather nourishes and cherishes it, even as Christ does the church, because we are members of his body. *For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.* This is a great mystery, but I speak in reference to Christ and the church.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL READING John 6:60-69

Many of Jesus' disciples who were listening said, "This saying is hard; who can accept it?" Since Jesus knew that his disciples were murmuring about this, he said to them, "Does this shock you? What if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? It is the spirit that gives life, while the flesh is of no avail. The words I have spoken to you are Spirit and life. But there are some of you who do not believe." Jesus knew from the beginning the ones who would not believe and the one who would betray him. And he said, "For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by my Father." As a result of this, many of his disciples returned to their former way of life and no longer accompanied him. Jesus then said to the Twelve, "Do you also want to leave?" Simon Peter answered him, "Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and are convinced that you are the Holy One of God."

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

O God Who Gives Us Life and Breath



1. O God, who gives us life and breath, Who
2. O God, who calls your peo - ple out, To
3. O God of cov - e - nant and law, Re -



shapes us in the womb, Who guards our lives from
ven - ture and to dare, To plumb the bleak a -
veiled in cloud and flame, Your might - y deeds e -



birth to death, Then leads us from the tomb: De -
byss of doubt And find you e - ven there: When
voke our awe; We dare not speak your name. Yet



liv - er us from fears that kill The
we de - spair in wan - der - ing Through
we by faith are drawn to you And



life we have from you. Help us to know your
wastes of emp - ty lies, Re - fresh us with the
will your peo - ple prove, As on our hearts you



Spir - it still Is mak - ing all things new.
liv - ing spring Of hope that nev - er dies.
write a - new The cov - e - nant of love.

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Lord God of hosts.

Hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed is he who comes, who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho

san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Save us, Sav - ior of the world for by your

Cross and Res - ur - rec - tion you have set us free.

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

Lamb of God, you take a - way the

sins of the world, have mer - cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the

sins of the world, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN

Center of My Life

O Lord, you are the cen-ter of my life:
 I will al-ways praise you, I will al-ways serve you,
 I will al-ways keep you in my sight.

Text: Psalm 16, verses trans. © 1963, The Grail, GIA Publications, Inc., agent, refrain, Paul Inwood, b.1947, © 1985, Paul Inwood
 Tune: Paul Inwood, b.1947, © 1985, Paul Inwood
 Published by OCP.

RECESSIONAL HYMN


As A Fire is Meant For Burning

1. As a fire is meant for burn - ing With a
 2. We are learn - ers; we are teach - ers; We are
 3. As a green bud in the spring - time Is a
 bright and warm - ing flame, So the Church is meant for
 pil - grims on the way. We are seek - ers; we are
 sign of life re - newed, So may we be signs of
 mis - sion, Giv - ing glo - ry to God's name.
 giv - ers; We are ves - sels made of clay.
 one - ness Mid earth's peo - ples, man - y hued.
 As we wit - ness to the gos - pel, We would
 By our gen - tle, lov - ing ac - tions, We would
 As a rain - bow lights the heav - ens When a
 build a bridge of care, Join - ing hands a - cross the
 show that Christ is light. In a hum - ble, lis - t'ning
 storm is past and gone, May our lives re - flect the
 na - tions, Find - ing neigh - bors ev - 'ry - where.
 Spir - it, We would live to God's de - light.
 ra - diance Of God's new and glor - ious dawn.

Text: Ruth Daek, b.1947, © 1992, GIA Publications, Inc.
 Tune: BEACH SPRING, S 787 D, The Sacred Harp, 1844; harm. by Ronald A. Nelson, b.1927

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