



## IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

SEPTEMBER 1, 2024 TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### 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 Sistek (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)

### Monday, September 2, 2024

#### Mass at Immaculate Conception Cemetery

8:00 a.m. Deceased members of the  
Felentzer and Denne Family (Family)

### Tuesday, September 3, 2024

7:45 a.m. Stan & Clara Mae Povich (Family)  
5:15-6:15 p.m. Confessions  
6:30 p.m. Our Parish Family

### Wednesday, September 4, 2024

7:45 a.m. Russ, Helen, Lenny Loughner &  
Carol (Judy)

### Thursday, September 5, 2024

7:45 a.m. Deceased Members of the Gahagen  
and Cowell Family (Charlie & Toni)

### Friday, September 6, 2024

7:45 a.m. Joe Balzer (Wife)

### Saturday, September 7, 2024

8:30 a.m. Mass at Seton  
3:00 p.m. Harris/Miller Wedding  
4:30 p.m. Colleen Scholl (Family)

### Sunday, September 8, 2024

8:00 a.m. Paul Dirling (Kathleen)  
10:00 a.m. Kathy Montrose (Paula Egnot)  
11:30 a.m. Edwin & Elizabeth Burda (Kevin)

### PARISH STAFF

**Rev. Michael Crookston, Pastor**  
mcrookston@dioceseofgreensburg.org

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

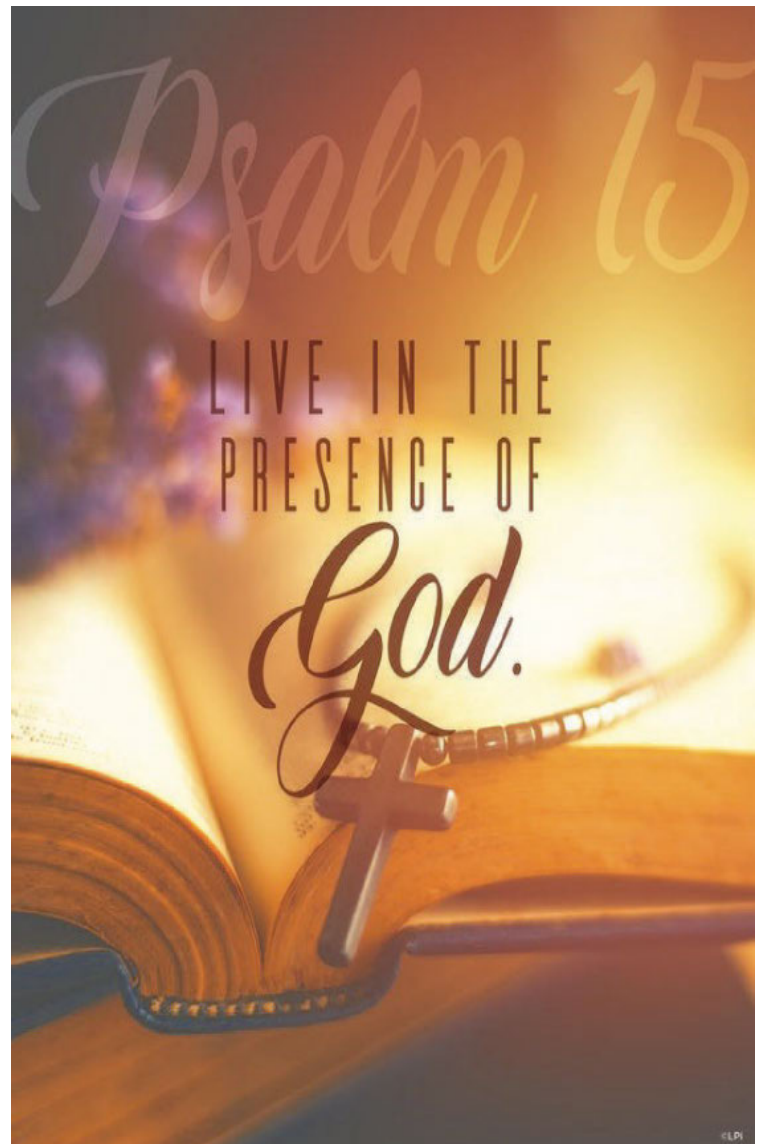
**Courtney Ruby, Business Manager**  
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**Katelyn Waterhouse, Regional Director of  
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kwaterhouse@dioceseofgreensburg.org



### Queen of Angels Catholic School

**Jennifer Filak, Principal**  
jfilak@queenofangelssch.org  
www.queenofangelssch.org  
724-978-0144

**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

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

### PARISH OFFICE HOURS:

Monday Sept. 2 - Closed  
Tuesday Sept 3 - Friday Sept 6  
8 am to 1 pm

## HAPPENINGS ON THE CORNER & AROUND THE DIOCESE



Join us Labor Day, Monday Sept 2 at 8:00 am at Immaculate Conception Cemetery for morning Mass. In case of rain, Mass will be celebrated in the Church. Bring your lawn chair.

### IMMACULATA MEN'S GROUP (IMG) & IMMACULATA WOMEN'S GROUP (IWG)

Our first sessions of the fall semester will be next Saturday, September 7th for the men's group (IMG) and next Sunday September 8th for the women's group (IWG) at 6:30am in Our Lady's Plaza. We will begin watching Season 4 of "The Chosen". All are welcome!



### Christian Mothers/Women's Guild

Installation of Officers & New Members will be Tuesday September 17 at 6:30 pm Mass followed by refreshments in Our Lady's Plaza.

### Greensburg Diocesan Council of the National Council of Catholic Women

Interfaith Pro-Life Prayer Breakfast  
Saturday October 19 2024  
Ferrantes Lakeview, Greensburg  
10:00 am to 12:00 pm  
Keynote Speaker will be Remil Teny.  
Fliers are on counter in back of church for more information.

— SAVE —  
THE DATE

### SAVE THE DATE!

Our next CASH BASH will be held on Saturday, November 2. Tickets go on sale in September. Watch the bulletin for details.

### DEMENTIA SUPPORT GROUP ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON

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 p.m. in the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish Center. For more information, contact Gail Henderson at 412-848-2076 or email her at: [gailhend@comcast.net](mailto:gailhend@comcast.net). All are welcome!



Faith Formation grades 1-8 start next weekend at Immaculate Conception.  
-Grades 1 and 2 Saturday, Sept. 7<sup>th</sup> from 9-11 am  
-Grades 3-6 Monday, Sept. 9<sup>th</sup> 6-8 pm

ALL Grades are invited to the Faith Formation Welcome Mass and Open House Tuesday, Sept. 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm Mass. Following Mass there will be an Open House for grades 1-6 in the Administration Building, and mandatory parent and child meetings in the church for grades 7 and 8. If you need more information or haven't registered yet please contact Susan Cheplic  
[skchePLIC@dioceseofgreensburg.org](mailto:skchePLIC@dioceseofgreensburg.org)



### Creation Care Team Immaculate Conception

The Immaculate Conception Creation Care Team will co-host a Creation Care Movie Night with St. Barbara's team in Harrison City on a date to be determined in late September. We will view the movie "The Letter" produced by the Vatican and addressing our challenge to best be stewards of our Earth. The evening will include snacks and drinks as well. Stay tuned! For more information about creation care team you can call 412-916-8030 or email [chris@syncrous.com](mailto:chris@syncrous.com).

### Bible Study

Deacon Jeff is leading a Bible Study on Monday evenings starting on Monday Sept. 16<sup>th</sup> at Seton in Mack hall at 6:30 pm. 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.  
[icieslewicz@dioceseofgreensburg.org](mailto:icieslewicz@dioceseofgreensburg.org)

Prayer for Labor Day - Dear Lord, Bless and protect the men and women whose hard work provides food and shelter to them and their families, services to our communities, and care to our world. Be with them as they work, but also as they rest and recreate in Your care. Amen.

# PASTOR'S NOTES

## The Letter of the Law!

No matter where we look, our actions and attitudes are dictated by law. At a very early age in life we learn what we can and cannot do. Our families lay down the foundations of behavior based on laws that need to be followed. As we grow and move beyond the boundaries of our own homes we step into a world that has its own set of rules. Hopefully what we learn at home will coincide with what is expected from us in society, but this is not always the case. Faith and religion bring yet another dimension of rules and laws and one can only hope that all of the laws will come together.

Laws can be funny things. They may dictate behavior but they do not necessarily help to form our hearts. In order for that to happen, we need to make laws something more than just a roadmap on behavior. The laws which we follow need to become a part of who and what we are in life. This is what Jesus is reminding us of in our Gospel today. Jesus calls us to look deep inside of ourselves and determine just what it means to honor God.

In the first reading Moses reminds the people of Israel that they must follow the law of God without any deviations. They are not permitted to add anything to it or take anything away from it. In the Gospel Jesus is confronted by the Jewish leaders who specify religious purity in largely external terms. Jesus quickly points out that it is not external behaviors that define religious fidelity, but the internal dispositions of heart from which behavior flows. This is a vital lesson in life. Sometimes we need to live more out of our hearts and just merely following the precepts or teachings of law. Ultimately purity before God flows from a heart turned to God. We cannot afford only to pay lip service to God.

Jesus puts an emphasis not on external prescriptions of the law, but on interior dispositions and on virtues like justice, mercy, and forgiveness. Jesus teaches that it is necessary to get to the heart of the matter. His emphasis on "the heart," the very core of the human being teaches that observance of the law is much more than attention to its external demands. It is much easier to clean the pots and pans than to clean one's heart. We need to figure out what traditions we blindly cling to. Perhaps it is enough for us just to go to Mass on Sunday; after all, this is what most of us grew up doing; this is what makes us Catholics. Or perhaps we cling to rote prayers that we learned as a child rather than stretch our relationship with God to find new prayer expressions. Perhaps we relegate God in our lives to only an hour on Sunday.

The Pharisees were so concerned with following the law that they did not allow the law to penetrate their hearts so that they would be more merciful and forgiving of others. Faithful observance of the law demands that the law be internalized, a fact which they neglected and sorry to say so do we sometimes in life.



**Prayer**  
*From the Heart*

**Beloved**  
*A Gathering for Women*  
St. Regis Parish, Trafford  
September 9  
6:30-9PM

**Monsignor Michael J. Begolly**  
will be the speaker.

Each evening will have a reflection, small group discussion, and opportunity for adoration and reconciliation.



Diocese of Greensburg



**Prayer**  
*Real Talk with God*

**Transformed**  
*A Gathering for Men*  
September 16  
6:30-9 PM  
St. Regis Parish, Trafford

**Father Daniel E. Carr** will be the speaker.

Each evening will have a reflection, small group discussion, and opportunity for adoration and reconciliation.



Diocese of Greensburg

## CANDLES

### **Sanctuary Candle:**

In Memory of Michele Ruby (Courtney)

### **Divine Mercy:**

In Memory of Rick Borland (Carol)

### **St. Peregrine Candle:**

In Memory of Paul Pushic (Wife Karen)

### **Easter Flame Candle:**

In Memory of Linda Taylor (Family)

### **St. Joseph's Candle:**

Month's Mind

### **Altar Candles for the Month of September:**

In Memory of Jack & Helen Smith (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

## **THIS SUNDAY AND NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS**

### **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

### **September 8, 2024- Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Isaiah	35:4-7a
James	2:1-5
Mark	7:31-37



Please pray for the families of Thomas "Bumpy" Jenkins & Eleanor Vouch and all of our faithful departed.

*Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.*



### **Prayer to Our Lady of Sorrows**

Our mother of sorrows with strength from above you stood by the cross sharing in the suffering of Jesus and with tender care you bore him in your arms mourning and weeping. We praise you for your faith which accepted the life God planned for you. We praise you for your hope which trusted that God would do great things for you. We praise you for your love in bearing with Jesus the sorrows of his passion. Holy Mary may we follow your example and stand by all your children who need comfort and love. Mother of God stand by us in our trials and care for us in our many needs. Pray for us now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

## 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](mailto: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.



Eucharistic Adoration is held every Tuesday after 7:45 am Mass & continuing until 6:15 pm.

*When we are before the Blessed Sacrament, let us open our heart; our good God will open His.*

**Sunday Offertory**  
August 24/25 - \$12,590.48

**Online Giving**  
August 19-25 - \$5,116.29

**Thank you for your generosity!**

Immaculate Conception Parish offers  
Online Giving.

For additional information 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!

### **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

## ANGELS CORNER—QUEEN OF ANGEL CATHOLIC SCHOOL



Queen of Angels Catholic School - NEEDED - Recycled ink cartridges. We can recycle your ink cartridges. We accept HP and Cannon inkjet cartridges. Please drop them off in the NEW BASKETS in the back of the church or at Queen of Angels School. All of these items help our school to earn CASH and FREE educational materials. Thank you for your support! Any questions, please call the office at 724 978-0144 or contact Mrs. Noblick at [rnoblick@queenofangelsch.org](mailto:rnoblick@queenofangelsch.org). Thank you!



### Fall Music Ministry

The music ministry at Immaculate Conception offers opportunities for involvement at all ages and ability levels, please consider joining one of our groups and contributing to our liturgies. New members are always welcome! As St. Augustine said, “those who sing pray twice!”

#### Parish Choir

- **First Rehearsal** and Ice Cream Social: Wednesday, September 11th, 7-8:30 PM in the Administration Building
- Open to all voice parts and abilities
- The parish choir sings at most 10AM Masses and Holy Day Masses

#### Children's Choir

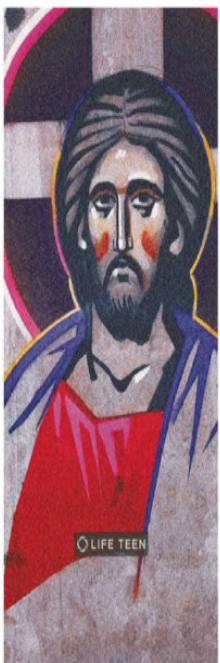
- **First Rehearsal:** Wednesday, September 11th, 5:45-6:30 in the Administration Building
- Grades 2-8
- Sings once a month at 10 AM Mass

#### Cantors

- Leads congregation in song during Mass
- Most needed: Cantors for Saturday 4:30 PM and Sunday 8:00 AM
- Light audition required



For more information about any of our music ministry offerings please reach out to Bridget Deveney, Director of



## 4:12 High School Ministry ~ Registration Mass & Open-House

SEPTEMBER 15, 2024

All 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders, their friends, and families are invited to join us!

6:00pm for MASS (meets the Sunday obligation) in the Queen of Angels Auditorium.

Following Mass is a parent meeting, and fun games in the gym and a tour of the youth ministry building.





IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH  
Irwin, Pennsylvania  
Office of Liturgical Music Ministry

## THE TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

September 1, 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

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

ST. DENIO

1. Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,  
2. Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,  
3. Life - giv - ing Cre - a - tor, of both great and small;  
4. Great Fa - ther of glo - ry, pure Fa - ther of light,

1. In light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,  
2. Nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, you rule day and night;  
3. Of all life the mak - er, the true life of all;  
4. Your an - gels a - dor - ing, all veil - ing their sight;

1. Most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,  
2. Your jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove  
3. We blos - som, then with - er, as leaves on a tree,  
4. We too, God in - vis - i - ble, of - fer our praise;

1. Al - mighty - y, vic - to - rious, your great name we praise.  
2. Your clouds, which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.  
3. But you live for ev - er, who is and will be.  
4. O light in - ac - ces - si - ble, An - cient of Days!

Text: 11 11 11 11; 1 Timothy 1:17; Walter C. Smith, 1824–1908, alt. Music: Robert's *Canaidau y Cyssegr*, 1839.

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and on earth

peace to peo-ple of good will. A - men, a - men, a - men.

### THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

#### FIRST READING Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-8

Moses said to the people: "Now, Israel, hear the statutes and decrees which I am teaching you to observe, that you may live, and may enter in and take possession of the land which the LORD, the God of your fathers, is giving you. In your observance of the commandments of the LORD, your God, which I enjoin upon you, you shall not add to what I command you nor subtract from it. Observe them carefully, for thus will you give evidence of your wisdom and intelligence to the nations, who will hear of all these statutes and say, 'This great nation is truly a wise and intelligent people.' For what great nation is there that has gods so close to it as the LORD, our God, is to us whenever we call upon him? Or what great nation has statutes and decrees that are as just as this whole law which I am setting before you today?"

The Word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

#### RESPONSORIAL PSALM Psalm 15 Michel Guimont

*One who does justice  
will live in the presence of the Lord.*

#### SECOND READING James 1:17-18, 21b-22, 27

Dearest brothers and sisters: All good giving and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no alteration or shadow caused by change. He willed to give us birth by the word of truth that we may be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures. Humbly welcome the word that has been planted in you and is able to save your souls. Be doers of the word and not hearers only, deluding yourselves. Religion that is pure and undefiled before God and the Father is

this: to care for orphans and widows in their affliction and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

The Word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

#### GOSPEL READING Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

When the Pharisees with some scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus, they observed that some of his disciples ate their meals with unclean, that is, unwashed, hands. —For the Pharisees and, in fact, all Jews, do not eat without carefully washing their hands, keeping the tradition of the elders. And on coming from the marketplace they do not eat without purifying themselves. And there are many other things that they have traditionally observed, the purification of cups and jugs and kettles and beds. — So the Pharisees and scribes questioned him, "Why do your disciples not follow the tradition of the elders but instead eat a meal with unclean hands?" He responded, "Well did Isaiah prophesy about you hypocrites, as it is written: *This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines human precepts.* You disregard God's commandment but cling to human tradition." He summoned the crowd again and said to them, "Hear me, all of you, and understand. Nothing that enters one from outside can defile that person; but the things that come out from within are what defile. "From within people, from their hearts, come evil thoughts, unchastity, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, licentiousness, envy, blasphemy, arrogance, folly. All these evils come from within and they defile."

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

#### Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether



1. Draw us in the Spir - it's teth - er, For when  
2. As dis - ci - ples used to gath - er In the  
3. All our meals and all our liv - ing Make as



hum - bly in your name Two or  
name of Christ to sup, Then with  
sac - ra - ments of you, That by



three are met to - geth - er, You are in the  
thanks to God the Fa - ther Break the bread and  
car - ing, help - ing, giv - ing, We may be dis -



midst of them. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!  
bless the cup. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!  
ci - ples true. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!



Touch we now your gar - ment's hem.  
So now bind our friend - ship up.  
We will serve with faith a - new.



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

Loving and Forgiving

Refrain

Lov-ing and for - giv-ing are you, O Lord; slow to an-ger,  
rich in kind-ness, lov-ing and for - giv - ing are you.

Text: Based on Psalm 103:8, 1-2, 3-4, 8-10, 11-12. Text and music © 1992, OCP. All rights reserved.

RECESSIONAL HYMN

God's Blessing Sends Us Forth

1. God's bless-ing sends us forth, Strength-ened for our task on earth,  
2. God's news in spo-ken word Joy - ful - ly our hearts have heard;  
3. We by one liv-ing bread As one bod-y have been fed;  
4. Grant in this age of space Tri - umph of your truth and grace;

1. Re - freshed in soul and re - newed in mind.  
2. O may the seed of God's love now grow.  
3. So we are one as we share this food.  
4. Lord, you a - lone are un - chang - ing truth.

1. May God with us re - main, Through us the Spir - it reign,  
2. May we in fruit - ful deeds Glad - ly serve oth - ers' needs,  
3. How gra - cious to be - hold All peo - ple of one fold  
4. Bring us un - to your side; Pre - serve and ev - er guide


1. That Christ be known to hu - man - kind.  
2. That faith in ac - tion we may show.  
3. Who ev - er seek each oth - er's good.  
4. Your an - cient Church in age - less youth.

Omer Westendorf, 1916-1997  
Text © 1964, WLP

Schlesische Volkslieder, Leipzig, 1842

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