IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH JANUARY 12 2025 THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Saturday, January 11, 2025 8:00 a.m. Donnelly Family (Family) 4:30 p.m. Leo & Pauline Balcerek (Family) Sunday, January 12, 2025 8:00 a.m. Paul Dirling (Iuliano Family) 10:00 a.m. Kay Mason (Paula Egnot) 11:30 a.m. Dolores & Anthony Nese (Family) Monday, January 13, 2025 7:45 a.m. Tim Salopek (Family) Tuesday, January 14, 2025 7:45 a.m. Our Parish Family 5:15 p.m. - 6:15 p.m. Confessions 6:30 p.m. Stephen Pilipovich (Peg) Wednesday, January 15, 2025 7:45 a.m. Special Intentions for Susan Nemeth (Kathleen) Thursday, January 16, 2025 7:45 a.m. Michael LeDonne (Family) Friday, January 17, 2025 8:30 a.m. Mass at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Saturday, January 18, 2025 8:00 a.m. Read Family (Emily) 4:30 p.m. Charles Saller (Family) Sunday, January 19, 2025 8:00 a.m. Special Intentions for Jim & Carol Sandor 60th Wedding Anniversary (Children) 10:00 a.m. Kaitlynn Beatty (Beatty Family)

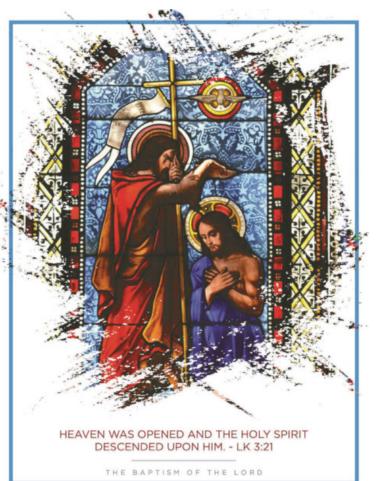
11:30 a.m. John & Julie & Mihalko Family (Family)

> 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 www.ccharitiesgreensburg.org



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

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

> Courtney Ruby, Business Manager cruby@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Bridget Deveney, Director of Music Ministry bdeveney@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Tracy DeFelice, Administrative Assistant tdefelice@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Susan Cheplic, Director of Faith Formation skcheplic@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Katelyn Waterhouse, Regional Director of Youth Ministry kwaterhouse@dioceseofgreensburg.org

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

> Parish Office Hours: 8 am to 3 pm



PASTOR'S NOTES

We are all God's Beloved

Our celebration of the Baptism of the Lord finishes off the season of Christmas and leads us into Ordinary Time. Today our readings speak about how Jesus was looked at through the eyes of the Gospel writers. It is clear that for the author of Matthews's gospel Jesus fits the identity of the "suffering servant" Isaiah speaks of in the first reading. We learn from the gospel that Jesus was the one who was commissioned by God to remind the people of God the very heart of scripture. He is God's servant with whom God is pleased and upon whom God put the divine spirit.

As we read all the versions of Jesus' baptism by John, it is clear that there was a lot of discussion about why Jesus had to be baptized in the first place. If baptism was meant to be "for the remission of sins," why should Jesus, who was sinless, be baptized at all? We clearly see that from John's baptism of Jesus there are no doubts about who is the greater between Jesus and John. This was a debate between many of the followers of John for a long time. They were not clear as to who was of greater importance. We hear from John himself what he perceives to be true; namely that Jesus is the Messiah.

In our highly secularized society and with the increasing number of people who view themselves as non-practicing Catholics, we may ask ourselves "What has become of baptism?" What is at issue here deals with meaning and relevance of what Baptism really is. One question that we all need to ask is: why would parents who not only have quit "religious practice" but have also dropped any form of faith education, want their children to be baptized? Baptism seems to be very much at odds with our modern society.

One thing that the baptism of Jesus did was define who he was. It is because Jesus knows who he is that he does what he did. We need to realize that because of our baptism we have been defined as being God's beloved as well. We are reminded today that we all need to revisit both our practice and our theology of baptism. An overemphasis on baptism as a means of purification from original sin limits our understanding of the sacrament.

There is more to baptism than simply purification. Baptism is the revelation of our true identity as children of God. We are baptized "in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." This makes a world of difference; it tells us how great our dignity and our vocation are. Imagine what our parish would be like if every member took the baptismal commission seriously? What might happen in families, in the neighborhood and its schools, in people's workplaces? What pain might be relieved, what suffering made meaningful?

Baptism identifies us as God's beloved children and our mission is to follow Jesus. The dying and rising is the "stuff" our Christian living is all about. We are living justly when we die to selfishness and rise to the needs of others. Like Jesus, we are "showing no partiality" when we die to judgments and categorizing or labeling others and rise to seeing all people as beloved children of God. Like Jesus, we do good when we forgive; we heal others when we offer kind words instead of words that tear down, or help another without being asked. Try to imagine a world where all baptized people live this way!

- Father Míke

CANDLES

Sanctuary Candle:

In Memory of Ken, Flo & Harold Rottmund (Family)

Divine Mercy:

Special Intention for Susan Nemeth (Courtney)

St. Peregrine Candle: In Memory of Michele Ruby (Courtney)

Easter Flame Candle: In Memory of Mihalko Family (Family)

St. Joseph's Candle: In Memory of Paul Dirling (Tina Greer)

Altar Candles for the Month of January:

In Memory of Deceased Members of the Bertolina, Santimyer & DeFelice Families (William, Tracy, Michael & Vincent)

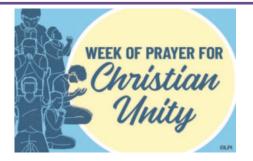
If you would like to have a candle lit in memory of your loved one, please call the parish office. We will be glad to help you. 724-863-9550



Please pray for the families of Marlene Stoken, Matthew Washil, John Gallik, Gerald Malkos, Druecilla Orsino, John Marsiglio and all of our faithful departed. Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Our Father, We seek you in so many ways and places in our life. We seek you for guidance and for comfort. But you have told us that when there is hunger, it is up to us to feed the hungry. We ask you to help us see you in other Christians and humbly ask you for strength in the search for what we have in common. Bless our efforts to look at all the ways we are united in faith, and grant us courage to change our hearts and minds to realize your will. We ask all this through Christ our Lord and brother, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.



SACRAMENTS

Anointing of the Sick

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

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.



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

"When we face the sun we get a tan, but when we stand before Jesus in the Eucharist we become saints." - Blessed Carlo Acutis

Sunday Offertory December 22 - \$15,127.76

December 29 - \$14,278.01

Christmas - \$23,813.65

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God - \$3,060.24

Online Giving

December 23 - January 3 - \$5,210.35

Thank you for supporting our parish!

Immaculate Conception Parish offers Online Giving.

- Scan QR Code on the new Pew Cards or QR Code below.
- Click Create a new account.
- Create an ID and password.
- Allow 2 minutes to complete the
- process.



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

HAPPENINGS ON THE CORNER & AROUND THE DIOCESE

Knights of Columbus Donations for Vocations Dollars for Collars

St Jude 9019 Knights of Columbus will be collecting for Vocations **THIS WEEKEND** after all Masses. All monies collected for vocations are in support of our Seminarians in the Greensburg Diocese. Last year we collected \$5,940 from the Parishes of Immaculate Conception, St Agnes, and St Elizabeth Ann Seton. From that total last year we gave \$3,000 directly to Designated Seminarians studying for the Priesthood in our Diocese. The remainder was donated to the Diocesan Fund that pays for educational costs. This year we are supporting three seminarians, Tyler Randolph, Ryan Scavnicky, and Matteo Arcara. Tyler and Ryan are members of Immaculate Conception Parish. Thanks for supporting this worthy cause.



Thanks to everyone who took some time from their busy Christmas schedules to help us decorate our church for Christmas.

It looks beautiful! But all things must come to an end. On Sunday, January

12, after 11:30 Mass we could use your help disassembling and packing away the decorations, trees and nativity to prepare for Ordinary Sunday.

You must have up to date clearances on file at IC parish office to volunteer.

2024 Offertory Statements

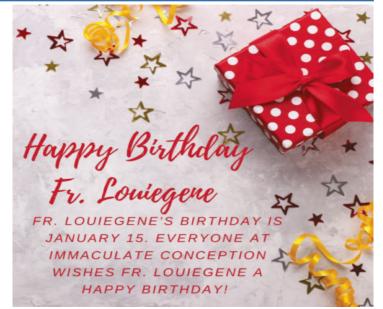
If you would like a 2024 contribution statement for tax purposes, please call the parish office or email cruby@dioceseofgreensburg.org to request your statement. We will be happy to send your 2024 statement. Thank you!



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, Chris Peta at <u>chris@syncrous.com</u>

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

Our next sessions will be next Saturday, January 25th for the men's group (IMG) and Sunday, January 26th for the women's group (IWG) at 6:30 am in Our Lady's Plaza. We will continue with Season 4 of "The Chosen". All are welcome!



Daily Mass Schedule Change

Immaculate Conception Parish will not have 7:45 am daily Mass on Fridays.

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton will have 8:30 am daily Mass on Fridays.

Thank you.

Valentine's Day Tickets will be sold after Masses January 18/19. The winner will have the option of \$2,500 cash or \$1,000 cash with complete rolls of \$5, \$10, and \$20 lottery scratch off tickets.

Buy a couple of tickets for your sweetie!

VALENTINE'S DAY SWEET CASH

winning number taken from First PA Lottery Pick 3 EVENING Number drawing on

February 14, 2025 \$1000 CASH and one sealed package of each of the following PA Lottery Scratch Off Tickets: \$5.00 - \$10.00 - \$20.00 or choose \$2500 CASH with no scratch-offs Benefits Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Church Donation \$10.00 500 Tickets Sold SGOC License #497

Christmas Decoration Removal Immaculate Conception Cemetery

If you wish to retain your Christmas decorations from your loved ones graves, please remove the Christmas decorations by **March 3, 2025.** Anything left in the cemetery past March 3, as a courtesy to you, will be discarded by cemetery staff. Thank you for your cooperation. Words are not enough to express my most profound gratitude for your kindness and goodness to me throughout the year and during this Christmas season. Thank you for taking time to scribble Christmas messages and send me Christmas cards and presents. They mean so much to me.

More than that, your presence in our liturgies and parish activities all year round are wonderful expressions not just of your cooperation and solidarity, but your strong faith and zeal as parishioners. My prayer is that you remain faithful stewards of our faith and messengers of God's words to your family, neighbors, and the community.

Be the light, be the hope, be Jesus to all. Thank you once again! Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year to each and everyone!

a gathering of Women, night of reflection "Living the Eucharist" Open to all women JAN 20 2025 6:30 – 8:30 PM St Elizabeth Ann

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish

200 Leger Road North Huntingdon, PA 15642



Helene Paharik has been an Associate Professor of Theology at St. Vincent Seminary, Latrobe, Pennsylvania since 2023. Paharik has served in ministry in both the Diocese of Pittsburgh and the Diocese of Greensburg. She has written dozens of articles on evangelization, pastoral ministry, spirituality, Catholic family life, and social teaching. An enthusiastic presenter, Paharik is a Benedictine Oblate and member of the Enuestrian Order.

Dr. Helene Paharik

For more information visit DioceseofGreensburg.org



smation and Discipleship serving the arishes of New Kensington and Lower enrish. Prior to taking on this note, Tim erved as a Campus Minister at the mixership of Mount Saint Vincent in New srk City and as a Parish Catechetical deader in the Diocese of Meath, Ireland, encodevid an Min Theology from the nivership of Notre Dame and a BA in heology from Mount Saint Mary's niversity.

Luchar

Coming heart to

Fr. Louiegene

heart with the

Tim enjoys spending time with his wi and son, hiking and visiting local crat breweries, and cheering on the Notre Dame Fishting trish.

a gathering of Men JAN 27, 2025 6:30 – 8:30 PM St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish

Eucharistic Christ

Reflection, Discussion and an opportunity for Adoration and Reconciliation

for more information visit DioceseofGreensburg.org

March for Life 2025 in Washington DC

Friday, January 24th

Bus leaves Mother of Sorrows at 5:30 AM

Cost: \$25, \$20 for students, payable on bus or MOS office

Cash or check - payable to Mother of Sorrows Parish

Cash tip for bus driver

To register email Barb Koury at <u>barbkoury@gmail.com</u>

Include <u>name</u> and a <u>cell phone number</u> that you will have with you that day.

Trip includes Mass at the National Basilica in the Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel

at 10:30 AM celebrated by Bishop Larry Kulick.

		nuary 24, 2025 the National Council of Catholic Wome
ALL a	re Welcome Come and g	o as your schedule permits
Christ	Our Shepherd Center, 2900	Seminary Drive, Greensburg
11.20		
11:30	Rosary for priests	
12:00	Mass celebrated by The Very R DCCW Spiritual Advisor	everend Eric J. Dinga, VF
	Mass celebrated by The Very R	everend Eric J. Dinga, VF
12:00	Mass celebrated by The Very R DCCW Spiritual Advisor	
12:00 1:30	Mass celebrated by The Very R DCCW Spiritual Advisor Rosary for Life	Free will offering and Donation
12:00 1:30 2:15	Mass celebrated by The Very R DCCW Spiritual Advisor Rosary for Life Stations of the cross	everend Eric J. Dinga, VF Free will offering and Donation of diapers and baby items will be distributed to pregnancy



Join thousands of Catholics nationwide in the annual Respect Life novena *9 Days for Life*, Thursday, January 16 – Friday, January 24. Get daily intentions, brief reflections, and more by email or text message.

Sign up at 9daysforlife.com!

12 Hig	h School	Minis	stry Press	ents:	
Steubenville Co	elp to send 4:12 High Scho nferences, Camp Damascu	is, and the Nat	ional Catholic Youth Conf		
***5	Saturday, NOW DATE (March 1st)W	atch KDKA for ca	ancellation information		
	Ann Seton — Mack Hall ors Open 10:45 AM —				
· (S) .]	Jackpot Payout - \$ 1,000.00				
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St. Agnes Re: Super 11400 St.	Church	Ar	irchase tickets at St. Elizabeth in Seton, St. Agnes, or maculate Conception church foes.		
				e call Mar	

4:12 High School Ministry

welcomes high school youth (grades 9-12) to continue their faith formation with games, group discussions and presentations on topics of interest to teens. We also have seasonal social events, opportunities for service, conferences, camps, and a summer missionary trip!





4:12 High School Ministry Hosts



Immaculate Conception, or St. Elizabeth

Ann Seton to purchase your \$30 ticket!

WINTER SCHEDULE JAN **EPIPHANY PARTY!!!** 5 JAN 12 SCHOOL M Mother Mary Knows Best JAN Seeing the Word! 19 JAN 26 Seeing the Kingdom! FEB Stuffed & Emptied 2 Meetings are 6-8pm Q Youth Ministry Building on the Queen of Angels Campus NEW MEMBERS ARE WELCOME! KWaterhouse@DioceseofGreensburg.org





Steubenville Conference

18-20, 2025 DEUTERONOMY 4:24





Promo Video

Registration

Steubenville Youth Conferences are for current 8th-12th graders

ANGELS CORNER—QUEEN OF ANGEL CATHOLIC SCHOOL



Queen of Angels Catholic School is preparing for a new celebration of Catholic Schools. National Catholic Schools Week (CSW) is an annual celebration of Catholic education in the United States. CSW has traditionally been held the last week in January.
We want to help showcase what makes Catholic schools the best when families are looking to find the right school for them.
This year we will celebrate January 26-February 1, 2025.
This year's theme is Catholic Schools:
United in Faith and Community.

<complex-block>

Good goes beyond the sub! Visit our store or order online or on our app using promo code *QACS15* on January 14th from 3pm to 7pm—and we'll happily donate 15% of your sale in support of **Queen of Angels**. Enjoy some great subs and help Jersey Mike's support this worthy cause.

VALID ONLY AT: 648 MILLS DRIVE • NORTH HUNTINGDON, PA • 724-221-9221 Valid 1/14/25. Valid in app/online with promo code QACS15 or mention this flyer in store. 4484



THE FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD January 12, 2025 - Order of the Mass

VOCATIONS PRAYER

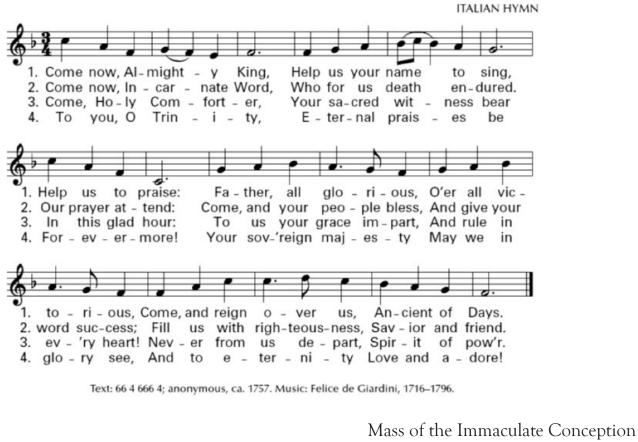
Lord Jesus, raise up from our homes those called by the Father:

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. Amen.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

GLORIA

Come Now, Almighty King



Jacob Gruss Glo - rv to God in the high - est. and on earth After final refrain peace to peo-ple of good will. A - men, a - men.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

Isaiah 42:1-4,6-7

Thus says the LORD: Here is my servant whom I uphold, my chosen one with whom I am pleased, upon whom I have put my spirit; he shall bring forth justice to the nations, not crying out, not shouting, not making his voice heard in the street. a bruised reed he shall not break, and a smoldering wick he shall not quench, until he establishes justice on the earth; the coastlands will wait for his teaching. I, the LORD, have called you for the victory of justice, I have grasped you by the hand; I formed you, and set you as a covenant of the people, a light for the nations, to open the eyes of the blind, to bring out prisoners from confinement, and from the dungeon, those who live in darkness.

> The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Psalm 29 Michel Guimont

The Lord will bless his people with peace.

SECOND READING

Acts 10:34-38

Peter proceeded to speak to those gathered in the house of Cornelius, saying: "In truth, I see that God shows no partiality. Rather, in every nation whoever fears him and acts uprightly is acceptable to him. You know the word that he sent to the Israelites as he proclaimed peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all, what has happened all over Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached, how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power. He went about doing good and healing all those oppressed by the devil, for God was with him."

> The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL READING Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

The people were filled with expectation, and all were asking in their hearts whether John might be the Christ. John answered them all, saying, "I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire." After all the people had been baptized and Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

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



Creed

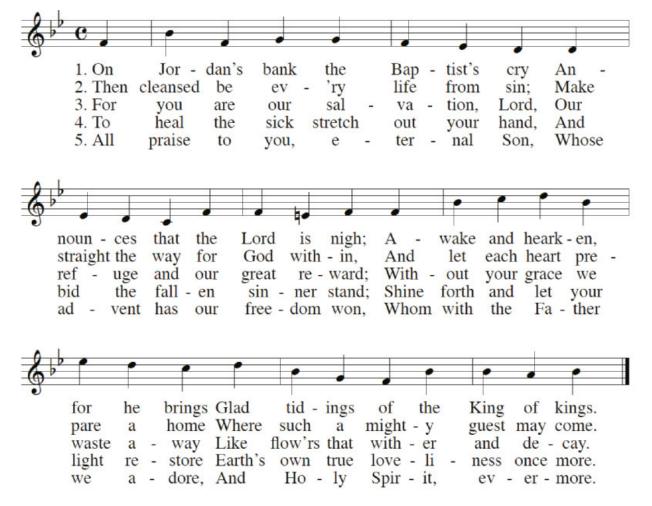
I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with 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

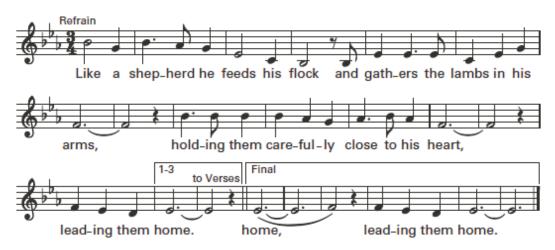
PREPARATION OF GIFTS

On Jordan's Bank



Text: Jordanis oras praevia; Charles Coffin, 1676–1749; tr. by John Chandler, 1806–1876, alt. Tune: WINCHESTER NEW, LM; adapt. from Musikalisches Handbuch, Hamburg, 1690

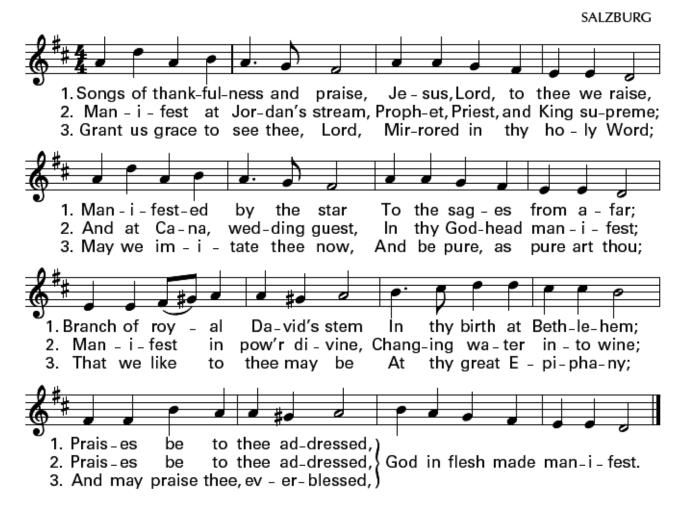




Text: Based on Isaiah 40:9ff; Ezekiel 34:11ff; Matthew 11:28ff. Text and music © 1976, Robert J. Dufford, SJ, and OCP. All rights reserved.

Recessional Hymn

Songs of Thankfulness and Praise



Text: 77 77 D; Christopher Wordsworth, 1807–1885, alt. Music: Jakob Hintze, 1622–1702; adapt. by Johann Sebastian Bach, 1685–1750.

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