IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH



APRIL 20, 2025, EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

Saturday, April 19, 2025 Holy Saturday

11:00 a.m. Easter Basket Blessing

8:30 p.m. Our Parish Family

Sunday, April 20, 2025 Easter Sunday

7:00 a.m. Paul Dirling (Theresa Freeman)

8:30 a.m. Mike Borland (Mom)

10:00 a.m. Jean Rogers (Paula)

11:30 a.m. Our Parish Family

Monday, April 21, 2025

7:45 a.m. Ron Balcerek (Barb, Lisa & Tracy)

Tuesday, April 22, 2025

7:45 a.m. Jeff Cole (Family)

5:15 p.m. - 6:15 p.m. - Confessions

6:30 p.m. Our Parish Family

Wednesday, April 23, 2025

7:45 a.m. Patricia Drabisin (Family)

Thursday, April 24, 2025

7:45 a.m. Jim Armstrong (Rose & Ray)

Friday, April 25, 2025

7:45 a.m. Laura Maturo (Divine Mercy Group)

Saturday, April 26, 2025

8:00 a.m. Gene Manik (Friends)

4:30 p.m. Anna Bach (Family)

Sunday, April 27, 2025

8:00 a.m. Theresa & Anthony Sciulli (Family)

10:00 a.m. Nick DeFelice (Wife)

11:30 a.m. Our Parish Family First Holy Communions Celebrated at Mass

Queen of Angels Catholic School Jennifer Filak, *Principal*

jfilak@queenofangelssch.org www.queenofangelssch.org 724-978-0144

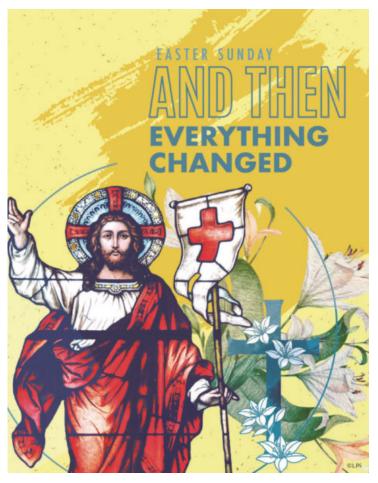
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Rev. Louiegene Arnold Valdez, *Parochial Vicar* lvaldez@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Rev. Vijay Kumar, *Parochial Vicar* vkumar@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Courtney Ruby, Business Manager cruby@dioceseofgreensburg.org

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

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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 Celebrate Easter!

The resurrection of Jesus is a paradox; we believe but we do not understand. The resurrection is a mystery, which we can never understand but only believe. This mystery takes us beyond all, which is familiar to us — to a realm where God's glory and power lift us up to a new dignity of risen life. It is a freely given gift by the Divine One who has loved us from the beginning of creation, who breathed life into us, and who continues to beckon us to grow in the truth of who we are.

Easter is a celebration where we acknowledge who Christ really is, the one who shared in our humanity even to the point of accepting death, but who conquered death to raise us up to a share in his life. What exactly is it that we celebrate every year on Easter. We recognize the fact that Jesus rose from the dead; but, don't we do that every time we celebrate the Eucharist? So, what makes Easter such a special celebration in our Church year? It might have something to do with the springtime of the year when everything in nature seems to resurrect. It might also have something to do with the fact that for forty days we have been anticipating this glorious day. Whatever the reason that makes this day so special, we like to celebrate it each and every year. We tell the wonderful story of the resurrection over and over again. Jesus squeezed life out of death and goodness and love triumphed.

The story of Easter is hard for us to accept because we have never seen or experienced anyone rise from the dead. So, we search for symbols to help us comprehend this great mystery. Just as at Christmas, Christians have come up with symbols to say something about resurrection. From ancient times the egg has been a symbol of fertility and immortality, and the church borrowed it and applied it as a visual lesson to the resurrection of Jesus. There is even a tradition that Simon of Cyrene, who helped Jesus carry his cross to Calvary, was an egg merchant. The legend has Simon returning to his shop after the crucifixion only to find that all of the eggs had turned miraculously into a variety of colors adorned with drawings. The butterfly is the most ancient symbol of the resurrection because they are born out of a caterpillar's sleep in a cocoon, symbolizing the grave. They are transformed, as if with a glorified body, unconstrained by the limitations of matter, flying into the air.

These symbols are strong statements about life, and what happened on that first Easter morning is "life" itself. I pray that as you celebrate this day with your family and friends, the peace and the joy that resurrection brings to our lives may be yours in abundance. Have a wonderful celebration and rejoice in the fact that Jesus truly has risen and that same reward awaits each of us. Alleluia!!

Easter Gratefulness

As we bask in the glory that the Risen Lord brings I can't help but think over the past few weeks with much gratitude. As a parish family I think we celebrated this great feast with much style and grace. God's Spirit could certainly be felt in the hearts of all. Sometimes we do not realize how many people are involved in a single liturgy let alone an entire season. I certainly would like to thank everyone for their willingness to give so generously of their time and talents. I am grateful to all of our Ministers who certainly put in extra time. As a Parish Family we have enjoyed a Blessed Easter celebration! ~Father Mike



CANDLES

Sanctuary Candle:

In Memory of Eugene Manik (Friends)

Divine Mercy:

In Memory of Irene Brooks (Judy & Barb)

St. Peregrine Candle:

Special Intention for Cancer Patients

Easter Flame Candle:

In Memory Ron Balcerek (Family)

St. Joseph's Candle:

Month's Mind

Altar Candles for the Month of April:

In Memory of Patrick Newcomer (Family)

Paschal Candle:

In Memory of James & Anna Tempo (Daughters)

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 William Laird & Francis Kunic and all of our faithful departed.

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

Easter Prayer of Thanksgiving

Good and gracious heavenly Father, we come before you on this Easter Sunday with full and grateful hearts for the gift of the Paschal Mystery that you showed us in the life, death, and resurrection of your Son, our brother by adoption, Jesus Christ.

Bless us and all those who profess belief in your saving love. Bless also those who have yet to profess belief in you. You are God for all. We ask all this in Christ's name. 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 on Tuesdays 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 April 6 - \$15,584.61

Online Giving

April 7 - April 11- \$1,551.70

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!





Graduation Mass will be Sunday June 1st, 2025 at 10:00 am Mass. Seniors' invitations will be mailed next week. Call the parish office with questions.



Immaculate Conception Parish's Lenten Stewardship

This year during Lent, IC paired up with Heifer International which is an organization that takes animals around the

world and helps people use them to help build a better life. Thank to everyone who donated to buy an "ARK" which is a collection of different animals that can truly bring a better life to many people. We collected \$5,910.00 for Heifer International. Thank you again for your generous donations!



Creation Care Event

Come celebrate Hope for the Earth! Sunday April 27th from 1 to 4 pm

Harrison Hills Park, Natrona Heights Ox Roast Pavilion (near the playground)

Activities:

- 1:00 Welcome and Walk of Hope for Creation
- 2:00:

 - Nature walk with a naturalist
 Crafts for children (bird feeder, water colors)
 - Nature themed guessing game Visit the Environmental Learning Center
- 3:45 Closing Prayer

11:30 - Optional garden clean up at the Environmental Learning Center

Sponsored by the Creation Care Teams of St Barbara's (Diocese of Greensburg), Christ the King and St. Teresa of Kolkata (Diocese of Pittsburgh) and Aspinwall Presby



Parish Office will be closed Monday April 21st. Office will open Tuesday April 22nd at 8:00 am. **Immaculate Conception Staff wishes** everyone a Happy Easter.

Special thank you to all the parishioners who helped make 500 nut rolls! A big thank you to DeLallo for their walnut donation. And thank you to everyone who purchased nut rolls! This was an incredible fundraiser for our parish!

> Thank you to everyone who helped decorate our church so beautifully for Easter. Thank you to Bridget & our choir for providing beautiful music during our Holy Week & Easter Liturgies.

GRIEF SHARE SUPPORT GROUPS

Two Grief Share groups are available:

Monday evenings Grief Share support group will be held at Immaculate Conception in the Children's Liturgy Room on Mondays from 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. beginning May 5. Contact Gerri Dornin at gdornin@comcast.net to register or for additional information. You are welcome to start attending at any point, as each session is "self-contained."

Thursday afternoons Grief Share support group will be held at St. Agnes in the Bertolina Room in the Faith Formation Center (Old Convent), Thursdays from 1:00 pm - 2:30 p.m. Contact Audrey Quinlan at audreyquinlan@comcast.net to register or for additional information. You are welcome to start attending at any point, as each session is "self-contained."



EASTER EGG HUNT was a great success. Children and adults had a lot of fun. Thanks to all the volunteers who helped make the day great. Congratulations to the Easter Egg Hunt winners.

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton parish will be selling "Money for Mom" tickets after Masses at Immaculate Conception April 26th & 27th.

MONEY FOR MOM!

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

Mother's Day, May 11, 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

All Adults 21 years or older are invited to

Theology on the Vine





Panel Moderator : Gerri Dornin Panelists: Audrey Qinlan, Meg Shiffler, Roberta Waltz

Wednesday April 30, 2025

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







Order of Christian

Congratulations!

It is with great joy that we celebrated the Sacraments of Christian Initiation at the Easter Vigil with Sarai Perez. We also share our joy with Michael Cumberledge, Matthew Staub, and Elizabeth Whittington who were received into Full Communion with the Catholic Church. We also congratulate Charles Thomas, who journeyed and celebrated the Rites of the Catechumenate and Purification and Enlightenment with us at Immaculate Conception and was received into Full Communion with the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish. They have all grown in the love of Christ and his Church. With our prayers, example, and continued support, they will continue to deepen that love on their ongoing Journey of Faith. Their excitement and happiness can be a reminder to us to renew our own commitment and appreciation for the wonderful gifts Christ has given us in the Sacraments. Congratulations to all who were received into the Church and celebrated the Sacraments for the first time. May God continue to bless you with His abundant grace and love.

ANGELS CORNER QUEEN OF ANGEL CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Queen of Angels Catholic School - HAPPY EASTER! As we enter the month of April, we are reminded of the beauty of renewal and the hope that comes with the Easter season. This is a special time in our Catholic faith, when we celebrate Christ's resurrection and the promise of new life. May this season fill your hearts and homes with joy, peace, and abundant blessings.

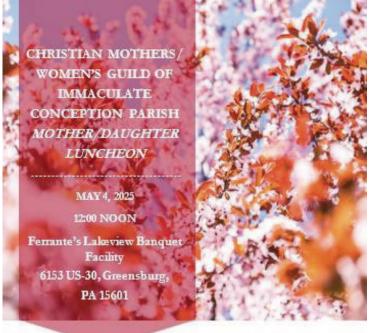
April is also a busy and exciting time at our school. Students continue to grow spiritually, academically, and socially, and we are grateful for the dedication they show each day. As we move through the final months of the school year, we encourage families to remain engaged in their child's learning journey. Your support at home plays a vital role in their success.

Queen of Angels Catholic School's production of Aladdin, Jr. presented by our Drama Club and Mrs. O is Friday, April 25th and Saturday, April 26th. Tickets are \$5.00 for adults and \$2.00 for Students. Come and enjoy an evening with our talented students. We are so proud of them!

May this Easter season be a time of reflection, renewal, and countless blessings for your family.

In Christ's Peace, Mrs. Filak





All women are welcome!

Women \$30 - Children (3-10) \$18 Children under 2 are Free.

Advance Ticket Sales Only Tickets for sale after all Masses April 26 & 27 and at the Parish Office Monday - Friday 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM Last Day to Purchase April 27



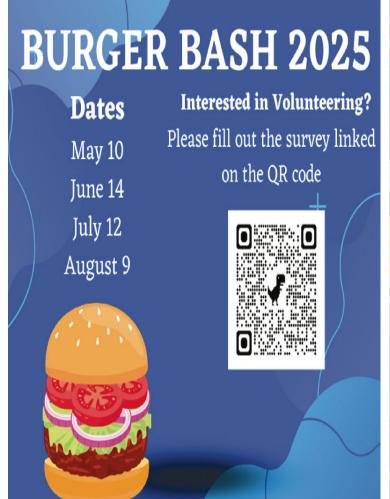
A Time to Share is the theme for our 2025 Diocesan Lenten Appeal. Our Diocesan goal is \$162,067.00. On the diocesan level, these monies support the international priests, seminarian's education, faith formation programs, Catholic Charities, and other diocesan ministries. Secondly, any monies over the diocesan goal will stay here at Immaculate Conception parish to support our missions, ministries, and to assist with upkeep of our parish buildings and grounds.

Please remember if Immaculate Conception Parish does not reach our diocesan goal, the parish will receive a bill for the difference that must be paid out of the parish savings.

It is important to note that every penny we raise above our Diocesan goal is ASSESMENT FREE.

That means all those dollars stay here at Immaculate Conception parish.

Thank you to all who have already given a gift to the 2025
Diocesan Lenten Appeal and to those who will give a gift.
Thank you for your support!
To donate online visit https://www.dioceseofgreensburg.org/diocesan-lentenappeal/dla-donate/







IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

Irwin, Pennsylvania

Office of Liturgical Music Ministry

EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

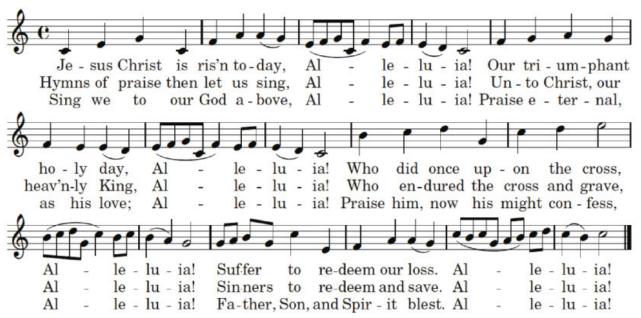
April 20, 2025 - Order of the Mass

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.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today



Text: St. 1, Surrexit Christus hodie, Latin, 14th C.; para. in Lyru Davidico, 1708, alt.; st. 2,3, The Complent Psalmodist, c. 1750, alt.; st. 4, Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt. Tune (EASTER HYMN 77 77 with allebuins): Lyru Davidico, 1708



THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading Acts 10:34a,37-43

Peter proceeded to speak and said:

"You know 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.

We are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem.

They put him to death by hanging him on a tree.

This man God raised on the third day and granted that he be visible,

not to all the people, but to us, the witnesses chosen by God in advance,

who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.

He commissioned us to preach to the people and testify

that he is the one appointed by God as judge of the living and the dead.

To him all the prophets bear witness,

that everyone who believes in him will receive forgiveness of sins through his name."

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 118 Marty Haugen



Give thanks to the Lord, for God is good; God's mercy endures for ever; Let the house of Israel say: "God's mercy endures for ever."

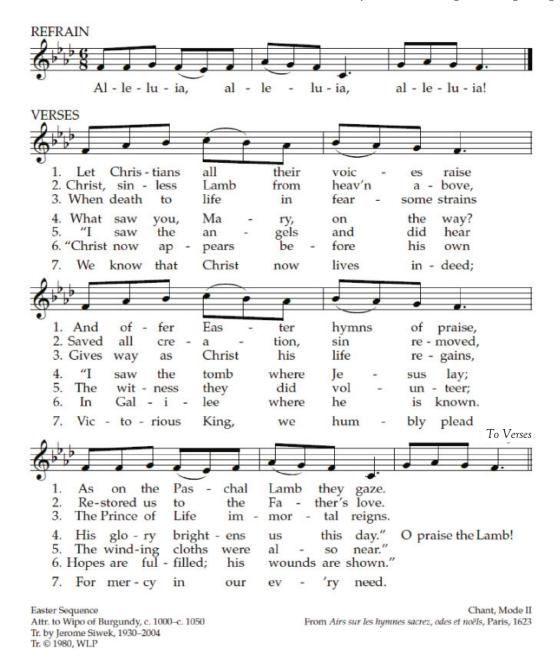
The hand of the Lord has struck with power, God's right hand is exalted, I shall not die, but live anew, declaring the works of the Lord.

The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone, the Lord of love and mercy has brought wonder to our eyes!

SECOND READING Colossians 3:1-4

Brothers and sisters: If then you were raised with Christ, seek what is above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Think of what is above, not of what is on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ your life appears, then you too will appear with him in glory.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.



GOSPEL READING John 20:1-9

On the first day of the week, Mary of Magdala came to the tomb early in the morning, while it was still dark, and saw the stone removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and told them, "They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don't know where they put him." So Peter and the other disciple went out and came to the tomb. They both ran, but the other disciple ran faster than Peter and arrived at the tomb first; he bent down and saw the burial cloths there, but did not go in. When Simon Peter arrived after him, he went into the tomb and saw the burial cloths there, and the cloth that had covered his head, not with the burial cloths but rolled up in a separate place. Then the other disciple also went in, the one who had arrived at the tomb first, and he saw and believed. For they did not yet understand the Scripture that he had to rise from the dead.

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

SPRINKLING RITE I Saw Water

Leo Nestor



PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Risen Lord, hear our prayer.

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Preparation of the Gifts

At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing



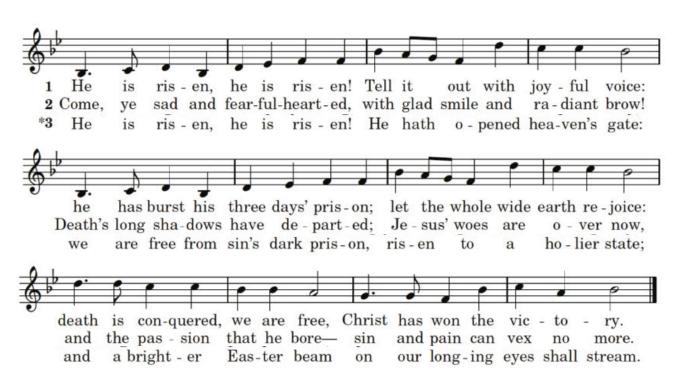




Text: Based on Revelation 5, © 1978, Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. by Augsburg Fortress Tune: FESTIVAL CANTICLE, Irregular with refrain; Richard Hillert, 1923–2010, © 1975, 1988, Richard Hillert

RECESSIONAL HYMN

He is Risen!



Hymnal 1982 180 Words: Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895), alt. Music (UNSER HERRSCHER 87.87.77): Joachim Neander (1650-1680)



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8:00 AM 3:00 PM

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