



INCARNATION OF THE LORD & RISEN LORD

ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISHES



December 18, 2016

Fourth Sunday of Advent

INCARNATION OF THE LORD PARISH

4071 Franklin Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15214
PHONE: (412)931-2911 FAX: (412)931-2832

MASS SCHEDULE

Weekend: Saturday - 4:00 p.m. & Sunday - 9:00 a.m.

Weekday: Tuesday & Thursday - 8:00 a.m.

STAFF

Fr. David DeWitt, Pastor.....Ext.2

Fr. David's Office Hours

Tues. 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Thurs. 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Or by Appointment

Deacon Bob Koslosky.....Ext. 8

Naomi Wells, Business Manager.....Ext. 7

businessmanagerincarnation@comcast.net

Mary Ann Burke, Social Services.....Ext. 4

Marilyn Ruffner, Religious Education.....Ext. 5

David Volcheck, Director of Music.....Ext. 6

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

MON: 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. & 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

TUES: 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. & 1:00 - 5:00 p.m.

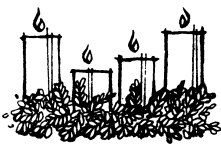
WED: 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

THURS & FRI: 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

They shall name him Emmanuel,

which means

God with Us.



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RISEN LORD PARISH

3250 California Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15212
PHONE: (412)761-1507 FAX: (412)761-6454

www.risenlordparish.com

risenlord@risenlordparish.org

MASS SCHEDULE

Weekend: Saturday - 4:00 p.m. & Sunday - 11:00 a.m.

Weekday: Monday, Wednesday, & Friday - 8:00 a.m.

STAFF

Fr. David DeWitt, Pastor.....Ext.8

Fr. David's Office Hours

Mon. & Wed. - 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Or by Appointment

Fr. Luther M. Raymond, In Residence.....Ext. 16

Fr. Godfrey Torac, In Residence.....Ext. 33

Deacon Bob Koslosky.....rkoslosky@diopitt.org

Naomi Wells, Business Manager.....Ext. 4

businessmanager@risenlordparish.org

Agnes Sterbenac, Social Services.....Ext. 7

asterbenac@risenlordparish.org

Marilyn Ruffner, Safe Environment Coordinator.....Ext. 5

mruffner@risenlordparish.org

Mary Kay Ferrance, Director of Music

Youth & Young Adult Ministry.....mmilsop@yahoo.com

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

MON: 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. & 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

TUES: 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. & 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

WED: 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

THURS: 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. & 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

FRI: 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

RECONCILIATION: Saturday afternoon 3:00 - 3:30 p.m. before the 4:00 p.m. Mass or by appointment.

INFANT BAPTISM: To schedule a Baptism, please contact the Parish Office. Parents are expected to attend a Pre-Baptismal session. Sessions will be held at Risen Lord Parish on the third Sunday of each month. Registration for the Sacrament of Baptism and the celebration of the Sacrament will still be at the individual parishes on the last Sunday of the month.

MARRIAGE: Dates for Marriages are scheduled only through the Priest and only after an initial meeting with the couple. Church law requires a minimum of six months notice before a wedding can be celebrated. In light of the many arrangements for a wedding, the couple should contact the Priest as soon as possible after the engagement is announced.

INTERESTED IN BECOMING CATHOLIC: Those wishing to share in the sacramental life of the Church are invited to contact the Parish Office. This specifically applies to those wishing to be baptized, who have not previously shared in the Eucharist, who have not sought to share the sacrament of Confirmation, or those raised in another faith but now choosing to share our Catholic faith.

HOSPITALIZED OR HOMEBOUND: If a parishioner is in the hospital or sick at home, please call the Social Ministry Office to arrange for a pastoral visit. Each hospital has a priest, either as a chaplain or assigned from a neighboring parish, for emergencies.

SPONSOR LETTERS: Only active and registered members will be issued a Sponsor Letter. The Sponsor should contact the Parish Office at least one week prior to the date needed.

BULLETIN: Submissions can be made to bulletinINCandRL@comcast.net. Deadline is 12:00 p.m. on Friday (nine days before the Sunday of the intended publication). Submissions are subject to approval and space limitations.

ONLINE BULLETIN: View the bulletin online at Risen Lord's website or at www.parishesonline.com and search for Incarnation of the Lord.



CHRISTMAS IS ONLY ONE WEEK AWAY! Are we ready yet? Are we ready to welcome the Lord Jesus into our homes and hearts? With all the preparations involved in celebrating the holidays, preparing for Jesus' coming is the most important!

MANY THANKS TO ALL WHO ATTENDED AND SUPPORTED another celebration of LESSONS AND CAROLS at Incarnation of the Lord Parish last weekend. Lots of hours go into preparing for this special night's activity and it was well worth the wait! This celebration helps us prepare for the wonderful birth of the Savior.

SANTA CLAUS MADE A SPECIAL STOP to Risen Lord Parish on December 10, 2016 to share in a brunch with all Christmas believers! KUDOS to all who assisted with this very important visit with Santa! Sleigh Bells could be heard off in the distance....hmm...

TICKETS FOR INCARNATION OF THE LORD'S CASH AWARDS are still available...we hear they make great stocking stuffers!! Tickets sold after weekend Masses or in the office!



DEACON BOB'S CORNER
Fourth Sunday of Advent

*Jesus is God Incarnate, the Word made Flesh:
Emmanuel, God with Us.*

Breaking Open the Word: Matthew 1:18-24

Listen to the Word: What one word or thought in this reading really strikes you? What overall sense of the Christian life do you get from this reading?

Look into Your Life

Children: When you pray, how do you hear God's voice in response?

Youth: God speaks to us in our intuitions and imagination, as he did to Joseph in this dream. Have you ever experienced God speaking to you in this way? What is God asking of you?

Adults: What experiences do you have of God "speaking to you" and directing your life and work? How does God speak to you in prayer?

Parenting Pointers for the Christmas Season

As Christmas approaches help your children prepare by urging them to choose at least one of their possessions to give away to someone who needs it more than they do.

"Thus the total number of generations was..." (Mt 1:17). Christmas is almost here. How many generations of your family will be present during your holidays? Listen to each other's stories. Learn about the past and future.

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Saturday (12/17) Late Advent Weekday

4:00 PM INC - Living & Deceased of the Parish
4:00 PM RL - Ray Mustovic (Ed & Elva Silay)

Sunday (12/18) Fourth Sunday of Advent

9:00 AM INC - Harry Moser (Dee Greene)
11:00 AM RL - Living & Deceased of the Parish

Monday (12/19) Late Advent Weekday

8:00 AM RL - Deceased Members of the Legion of Mary
(Incarnation Praesidium)

Tuesday (12/20) Late Advent Weekday

8:00 AM INC - Rosemary Mihm (Kat McCowan)

Wednesday (12/21) Late Advent Weekday

8:00 AM RL - Tom Dush (Thomasina Dush)

Thursday (12/22) Late Advent Weekday

8:00 AM INC - James DeWitt (Family)

Friday (12/23) Late Advent Weekday

8:00 AM RL - Jim & Carol Donovan (Family)

Saturday (12/24) Christmas Eve

4:00 PM INC - Living & Deceased of the Parish
4:00 PM RL - Living & Deceased of the Parish

Sunday (12/25) The Nativity of the Lord

9:00 AM INC - Living & Deceased of the Parish
11:00 AM RL - Living & Deceased of the Parish



JOIN US FOR ADORATION

Every Sunday at Incarnation of the Lord
from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Spend some extra time with the Lord.

Oplatki Christmas Wafers are available at both Incarnation of the Lord and Risen Lord. They are available at the churches during Masses and at the parish offices. Be sure to get yours for your Christmas dinner tradition!

SUMMONED BY GOD As Christmas draws near, Advent's scriptures lure us into a world of dreams, signs, wonders, and the miracle of the virgin birth. Too often we allow the great stories of our faith, the ones that are most familiar, simply to wash over us. Today's Gospel account of the events leading up to the birth of the Lord reads like a present-day soap opera. Yet Joseph's courage, even in the midst of what must have been an incredibly confusing time, provides a model for us. Each week, we are summoned by God to embrace the way of goodness and truth through the proclamation of God's holy word. Like Joseph, we are called to do as the Lord commands us. As we stand at the threshold of Christmas, let us have the courage to be open to whatever it is that the Lord will require of us as we celebrate the miracle of Bethlehem.

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Sick Relatives & Friends

Anyone wanting the name or the name of a loved one on or off the list, please call the church or social ministry office. Because of HIPPA regulations, only an immediate family member request the name of a loved one to be placed on the prayer list. Please remember in your prayers:

Ray Kenneally, Kelly Finnegan, Kimberly Behr, Mary Ann Wilson, Lou Saban, Sr., Michelle Fetzer, Kathleen Grady, George Finley, Robert Kroll, Dennis Guthrie, Tom Fowler, Madge Gillespie, Lori Ann Love, Wanda McAllister, Charles Wenzig, Sandy Zabierowsky, Marilyn Ruffner, Julie Fowler, and Gretchen Marker.

May God extend His helping and healing hands upon them all. In the letter of St. James 5:14-15 we are reminded, "If one of you is ill, he should send for the elders of the church . . . the prayer of the faith will save the sick man."

Weekly Collections

Weekend of December 10 & 11, 2016

Weekly Goal - \$ 5,900.00

Offering Collected - \$ 3,558.00

Deficit - \$ 2,342.00

Collection for Immaculate Conception: \$647.00

CASH AWARDS Tickets for the January Cash Awards are available in the back of Incarnation Church before and after Masses now and through December 31, 2016.

SAVE THE DATE - PARISH MEN'S RETREAT The 2017 Incarnation of the Lord Parish Men's retreat will take place January 27-29, 2017 at St. Paul of the Cross Monastery. For more information please contact George Linkhauer by phone at (412)952-4127 or Jeff Kammersell at (412)931-4839. If you already know that you want to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity, please call the Retreat Center directly by phone at (412)381-7676.

CHRISTMAS DECORATING We will be decorating the church for Christmas on December 18th after the 9:00 Mass. All are welcome. Many hands make light work.



GUARD THOSE WHO GUARD OUR FREEDOM

Trevor L. McCallum, Michael Borus,
Lt. Col. Katrina (Katy) Saban Coolman,
Major Joseph Coolman, Joshua Crankshaw,
Dalton Dailey, Joseph Dreves, Mark Enzerra,
Jason Fullmer, 2nd Lt., Andrew Geisler,
Dave Gratten, Matt Hahn, Christopher Kane,
Tina Lippert, Christine May, Alexa and Michael Brown,
MSgt. Shaun Seguin, SFC Erin Shaw

MINISTERS - DECEMBER 24 & 25, 2016

LECTORS

4:00 PM - Sr. R. Kardell 9:00 AM - M. Ruffner

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

4:00 PM - T. Donze, P. Wilson, D. Miller

K. Verbanets, J. & R. Zito

9:00 AM - N. & J. Kammersel, D. Greene

ALTAR SERVERS

4:00 PM - H. Scherer

9:00 AM - R. Dengler

INCARNATION OF THE LORD PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

Christ became human, and we take up His ministry of love, service, and compassion as an expression of our faith in the Word Incarnate.

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION By now, the first Christmas carols are heard in the home, but usually not yet in church. What is a "carol" anyway? Originally, a carol was any kind of communal song sung at a festival such as a harvest. By the thirteenth century or so, carols were associated with household celebrations. "Carol" comes from the Old French carula, meaning a circular dance. Carols weren't for church, since the language of liturgy was Latin and the carols were in the common language. Their characteristic sound comes from medieval chord patterns, and they often have strong refrains for everyone to sing. Even in the churches of the Reformation, carols didn't make it into church services until the 1870s or so, since there was a preference for psalms. Anglicans resisted popular carols; most of our beloved carols came via the Methodists, an offshoot of the Church of England. The Catholic Church generally didn't admit carols to liturgy either, but we didn't make laws against them.

We are told that the beloved carol "Silent Night" comes from Catholic Austria and a harried parish music director. Joseph Mohr, the priest of St. Nicholas in Oberndorf, had written the words in 1816, but offered them to his music director, Franz Gruber, when the church's organ broke. Mohr asked him to write a melody that could be played on guitar as a prelude to Mass. Gruber finished the tune just hours before midnight Mass in 1818. The people were shocked to hear a guitar in church, but were charmed by the sweet lullaby. The church was swept away by a flood in the 1990s and the village later relocated, but the townspeople have set up the "Silent Night Memorial Chapel" at the site. Today the carol is in print in some three hundred languages. How wonderful that the pipe organ broke on that night!

- Rev. James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

RISEN LORD PARISH NEWS

AS A PARISH WE LIFT IN PRAYER...

...Those requesting prayer

For the Healing and Well-Being of All
 For Agnes Sterbenac, Marie McConnell Scotty,
 Debra Butler, and Anonymous

...Those who have gone before us in faith

Due to HIPPA Regulations, only an immediate family member can call the Administrative Office or Social Ministry Office to request their loved one to be placed on the prayer list.



The Sanctuary Candle burns this week in honor of the Blessed Sacrament and in loving memory of the **Deceased of the Dragan and Spitz Families** from Stephanina Vankovic.

2017 Sanctuary Candle

We are taking requests for the Sanctuary Candle for 2017. The candle that is burning in the Sanctuary may be lit in remembrance of a deceased member of your family, and not for any other reason. The donation for the candle is \$10 and lasts for one week from Saturday to Friday. Intentions can be made in person or by calling the Parish Office during regular office hours or by filling out the form below and returning it in the offertory collection.

Name: _____
 Phone Number: _____
 Deceased: _____
 Requested by: _____
 Date: _____
 Alternate Date: _____

Stewardship - Weekend of December 3 & 4, 2016

Budgeted Amount - \$5,124.00	
Collection (137 Envelopes + \$102.00 Loose)	\$2,641.00
PSP - Blue (8 Envelopes)	<u>\$449.00</u>
Total	\$3,090.00
<hr/>	
Debt Reduction (55 Env. + \$78.50 Loose)	\$711.50
Maintenance & Utilities (3 Env.)	\$40.00
Social Ministry Outreach (5 Env.)	\$56.00
All Saints' Day (2 Env.)	\$10.00
Archdiocese for the Military (1 Env.)	\$25.00
Religious Retirement Fund (3 Env.)	\$45.00

Minister Schedule - December 24 & 25, 2016

Eucharistic Ministers

4:00 PM - TBD 11:00 AM - TBD

Lectors

4:00 PM - B. Glassbrenner 11:00 AM - J. Harding

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Monday, December 19

Youth Ministry Family Bowling Night
 7:00 PM - Education Center

Tuesday, December 20

Volleyball - 7:00 PM - Education Center Gym

Wednesday, December 21

Choir - 7:30 PM - Education Center

The parishioners of Risen Lord Parish would like to thank Father Mike Ackerman for leading our Advent Parish Mission December 3-5, 2016. He helped make us think about many new things. His message about Accepting God's Will in a changing world was timely in that we are on a new journey with the On Mission Church Alive initiative.

RISEN LORD PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

Our Risen Lord calls us to rejoice as a united people in the Good News that God loves us and has saved us. Each of us, by virtue of our baptism, is challenged to carry God's love to all in our neighborhoods. Through our communal participation in the Word of God and the Eucharist, as a parish, we seek to empower our people to meet this challenge to proclaim the love and hope that is our Risen Lord.

On this last Sunday before Christmas, we see that Jesus' birth is the fulfillment of the promise of Emmanuel, "God is with us" (Matthew 1:23). The Gospel refers to the first reading from Isaiah. There we see the king of Judah, Ahaz, under attack by the kings of Aram and Israel. He wants to ask the Assyrians for help instead of relying on God. He is afraid to admit his lack of faith. So the weakness of Ahaz gives us the wonderful prophecy of the birth of Jesus.

In the Gospel, Joseph also does not understand how Mary came to be pregnant. But unlike Ahaz, Joseph did have faith in God and the message of the angel. He took Mary as his wife and helped her through her pregnancy and in raising Jesus afterwards.

So now we have to choose whom to rely on. Do I act like Ahaz, relying on worldly powers, or like Joseph, who trusted the Lord? If I look at my actions and priorities, I might be more like Ahaz than I want to admit.

How much time do I spend watching television (especially now that it's in HD) compared to time in prayer? How much time do I spend reading the scriptures compared to the newspaper or magazines? If I really believe that "God is with us," which is what Christmas is all about, how much of God can people see in my actions? Maybe if we kept in mind that promise that God is with us - in the baptism we received and the sacraments of the Church, and in the love of our spouse or parents - we could see how close God really is, and let others see in our actions that Jesus is Emmanuel.

- Tom Schmidt, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.



Keeping the Faith

by Marilyn Ruffner

Today's Gospel recounts the story of Joseph and his reaction to finding out that Mary was pregnant. In the time of Mary and Joseph, when you were betrothed, you were legally bound to one another. A contract was drawn up and the couple became husband and wife. The bride would remain with her family until the marriage ceremony, which might be months or even years later. Joseph could have had Mary stoned at the gate for adultery. Joseph chose a more compassionate course and planned on divorcing Mary quietly. An angel appeared to Joseph in a dream and told him to take Mary into his home. The child was conceived by the Holy Spirit and Mary had not been unfaithful to Joseph. Joseph is obedient to God's will and does as he is told. Joseph was obedient because he was open to the will of God. He didn't question the angel. Imagine how hard that had to be. During this last week before Christmas, look for ways to help others feel comfortable. Try to be compassionate toward someone who is embarrassed by something they might have done. For example, instead of correcting someone's pronunciation or meaning of a word, stay silent. Usually we know what they meant or were trying to say. We don't always know everything, even though, we might act like we do. What's more important, being right or the comfort of another person?

There is a train display operating Saturdays and Sundays at St Aloysius in Reserve Township. It is open Saturdays and Sundays through January 15 2017. It is closed on December 24th, 25th, 31st, and January 1st. Hours on Saturday are 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM and on Sunday 12:00 - 4:00 PM. The admission is free, but goodwill offerings are accepted. This would be a wonderful family activity and the price is right.

I hope you had a chance to attend some of the programs that were planned by the churches in our area, including Incarnation's Lessons and Carols, planned by David Volcheck. It was a very moving spiritual experience. I hope you had a cup of wassail too.



NORTHSIDE CATHOLIC NEWS The gym classes at Northside Catholic School have been very exciting. Our older classes have spent several weeks playing games that enhance their agility and aiming abilities. In the next few weeks, we will begin playing a basketball free throw game to help prepare for the basketball season. Our younger classes have been learning spatial games, new stretching activities, as well as some holiday games. In the next few weeks, we will be learning new games that require listening skills and following directions for our games to work. For more information or to visit our school please call us at (412)761-5043 x3001.

200 CLUB

Week 10 - Ticket 111 - *Ticket Not Sold* - \$0

2017 Mass Intentions

The Mass Books for Incarnation of the Lord and Risen Lord for 2017 are now open! Intentions can include the deceased, those who are suffering from a serious illness or injury, and anniversaries. We must limit weekend requests to one per household so that all parishioners have a chance at getting a weekend mass. Intentions must be in writing (use the form below) and will be taken on a first come - first serve basis. Masses are \$10 per intention and must be paid in full when scheduled. To schedule Mass intentions in person, please contact or stop by the parish office during scheduled office hours.

Please Note: These dates will be closed for scheduling Mass intentions: Triduum and Easter (4/13 to 4/16), All Souls' Day, Thanksgiving Day (11/23), Christmas, and New Year's Day.

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Intention: _____

Requested by: _____

Date: _____ Alternate Date: _____

Intention: _____

Requested by: _____

Date: _____ Alternate Date: _____

Total amount enclosed \$ _____

New Year's Eve Peace Vigil The Benedictine Sisters of Pittsburgh, 3526 Bakerstown Road, Bakerstown, PA 15007, on Saturday evening, December 31, 2016. Nancy Robinson presents "A Blessing to Each Other: Jewish-Catholic Dialogue in an Age of Reconciliation." 5:00 - Vespers; 5:30 - Simple Meal; 6:15 - Concert featuring Cindy DeAlmedia, Pittsburgh Symphony and friends; 7:00 - Prayer and Presentation - social and light refreshments. RSVP required by December 28 at (724)502-2600 or respond via email: susanneosb@yahoo.com. Please indicate if you will attend both vespers and the simple meal.

The Little Sisters of the Poor are once again offering Christmas Cards. This year's card is white with a red sketch of Mary holding baby Jesus. The previous year's cards are also available. The cards are: 7 for \$10 (plus \$2 shipping), 12 for \$15 (plus \$3 shipping) or 30 for \$25 (plus \$6 shipping). Cards can be ordered online at www.littlesistersofthepoorpittsburgh.org, or by calling (412)307-1100, or sending a check made payable to Little Sisters of the Poor at 1028 Benton Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15212, or by stopping at the main entrance of the Home. All proceeds from the sale of the cards help to support the elderly poor Residents in the Little Sisters' care.