

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF MARY PARISH



December
Month of The
Immaculate
Conception

December 3, 2017
First Sunday of Advent

HH - Hitch Hall MH - Maher Hall
SB - School Basement
R - Rectory CH - Church
WH - Waldeisen Hall

Date	Observance	Mass Time & Intention	Server(s)	Readings	Event/Meeting
Mon Dec 4	John Damascene, Priest & Doctor	5:30 pm Vince Gandolfi by Fr. Mike	Burkhart	Is 2:1-5; Mt 8:5-11	
Tues Dec 5				Is 11:1-10; Lk 10:21-24	Free Store 4:30 - 7 pm SB
Wed Dec 6	Nicholas, Bishop	5:30 pm Ruth Faix by Family	Burkhart	Is 25:6-10a; Mt 15:29-37	Contemporary Choir 6:45 pm CH
Thur Dec 7	Ambrose, Bishop & Doctor Vigil Mass for Holy Day	5:30 pm Patrick Steurer by Family	Compton Need 1	Is 26:1-6; Mt 7:21, 24-27	SVdP 11:30 am HH Generations of Faith 7 pm WH
Fri Dec 8	Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Holy Day of Obligation Our Feast Day	7 pm Joseph Buhalak by Family	Morgan Hamilton	Gn 3:9-15, 20; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38	
Sat Dec 9	Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin	5:30 pm People of the Parish	Cole	Is 30:19-21, 23-26; Mt 9:35 - 10:1, 5a, 6-8	Confessions 9 - 10 am CH Free Store 9:30 - Noon SB
Sun Dec 10	Second Sunday of Advent 	8:30 am Ann Blondin by Steve & Toni Zamesko 11 am Deceased Family Members of Bob & Kathy Doerr	8:30 am Baker 11:00 am Compton Hamilton	Is 40:1-5, 9-11; Pt 3:8-14; Mk 1:1-8	

Sanctuary Lamp - Special Intention

Holy Hours: Mon. & Tues. 9 am - 5 pm.

Please come to the rectory for entry to the church.

There were 4 Holy Hours last week.

*Praise the Lord, all you nations, for his merciful love for us
is never ending. Ps 117:1-2*

COLLECTION REPORT

Sunday, Nov. 26, 2017

Sunday Offering - \$3,916

Cap. Imp./Debt. Red. - \$5

91 of 341 Envelopes Used.

Journey through Advent Forms are available at the doors of the church. Be sure to pick one up for everything you need to know for the upcoming holy season of Advent.

Holy Day - Dec. 8th is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception - a Holy Day and our Patronal Feast Day and we invite you to wear something blue to Mass to honor our Blessed Mother. Mass schedule: Vigil - Dec 7th at 5:30 pm and Dec. 8th at 7 pm.

Acme Cashback - Be sure to place all your Acme receipts in the baskets by the doors of the church.

Holy Family Candle - Herald Family

•**Generations of Faith** - Our next session will be **this** Thurs., Dec. 7th from 7 - 9 pm. Doors open at 6:30 pm. Our topic of discussion will be "The Eucharist as Sacrifice." Please bring your Bibles and Catechisms with you.

•**Altar & Rosary Society News - Bake Sale** - Huge thanks to everyone for their donation, service and support of our bake sale. Once again you made it a success. Thanks also to Jubilee Donuts for their generous donation. **Christmas Dinner** - Tues., Dec. 12th, 6 pm, Hitch Hall. Cost is \$10/person and menu includes beef tips, noodles, veggies, salad, rolls & Gardner pies for dessert. RSVP to Lorie at 330-322-7414 by Tues., Dec. 5th. Please bring deodorant for our SVdP pantry.

•**Bambinelli Sunday** - On the 3rd Sunday of Advent, children & their families gather in St. Peter's Square for a special papal blessing of the Christ Child, "Bambinelli," figure from their Nativity scene. We invite all households to bring their Bambinelli to Mass the weekend of December 16 & 17 for a special blessing.

Operation Christmas Child - We ask that the person who dropped off the shoeboxes on the weekend of Nov. 18/19 to please call the rectory.

Grateful Giving

Reflection: Total Accountability – The United States Conference of Catholic bishops has defined stewardship as “a life of total accountability and responsibility, acknowledging God as Creator and owner of all.” As we travel our faith journey through the Church Year, following in the footsteps of Jesus as His disciples, let us reflect on how accountable and responsible we have been with the gifts God has given us. Were we the good stewards that we are called to be? Did we give back with increase a portion of what we have received from our abundantly generous God? Have we grown in our faith and shared out time, talent and treasure with others? It is not too late. “Rather, whoever wishes to be great among you will be your servant; whoever wishes to be first among you will be the slave of all. For the Son of man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many.” (Mark 10:43-45)

Update – As our Grateful Giving Program draws to a close, **104** households have increased their weekly contribution in response to the letter from Fr. Mike, representing a combined weekly increase of **\$1,202.15**. The average increase in the weekly offering is **\$11**. Immaculate Conception Parish is truly blessed with generous stewards. Thank you!

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHTS

As we enter into a new Year of Grace & as we continue to work on our 5 year plan, one of our goals is to be more intentional in our worship, in our ministry, in our witness, in our choices & decisions, in our relationships, in our work – in all aspects of our lives. To be intentional means to do things deliberately, with particular focus, with purpose. Why do we do the things we do? Habit? Complacency? To pay the bills? It's the easy way? So we don't have to get involved? We are called to be involved; to be involved in family life, charitable causes, building up the Body of Christ, the political life of our nation, social justice issues & much more. What's more, as the Baptized we are called to be intentional, purposeful in all we do. Does what we do honor God, show respect for others and serve to grow the Church? Do the words we speak glorify God, affirm others and lead to unity & understanding? We have been highlighting parish ministries in this column and have a few more to go. Step forward in faith, be open, be focused, be purposeful and be intentional. Being intentional: Did you know that when we profess these words in the Creed, “and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary and became man”, we are all to bow? Check it out in the missalette.

STEWARDSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

In His Name – We will also be collecting warm socks at the main doors of the church for Hoban's **Project Hope** which serves the homeless. We will continue to accept donations for the Peter Maurin Center which also serves the poor and the homeless in Akron. Please drop your donations in the basket marked “Peter Maurin Center” by the main doors.

Giving Tree – During Advent, donations of scarves, hats, mittens, gloves, etc. can be placed on the Giving Tree near the altar. Items will be given to those in need who are serviced by our SVDP Food Pantry.

Church Decorating – Many hands make light work so join us on Tues., Dec. 19th at 6:30 pm to help make our church beautiful for Christmas!

Kenmore Free Store – Looking for a meaningful way to use your stewardship to serve & minister to others? Call the rectory or stop by the school basement on Tuesdays 4:30 – 7 pm or Saturdays 9:30 – noon.

Liturgical Ministers are needed for Dec. 7th & 8th, Christmas & New Years: please call the rectory.

Dec. 7, 5:30 pm – Lector: B. Langton. EMHC: J. Langton, need more; Servers: R. Compton, need; M of H: need;

Dec 8, 7 pm – Lector: need, EMHC: need, Servers: L. Morgan, G. Hamilton; M of H: need

Christmas Eve 5:30 pm: need EMHC, M of H

Christmas Eve 10 pm: need Lector, EMHC, Server, M of H

Christmas Day 10 am: need EMHC, Server, M of H

The Holy Day on New Year's Day – Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, has been dispensed because it falls on a Monday. There will be no vigil Mass on Dec. 31st, but we will celebrate on Jan 1st at 9:30 am (no 5:30 pm daily Mass). Liturgical Ministers needed.

Bulletin – Due to the high volume of packages UPS handles through Christmas along with short holiday office hours, items for the upcoming bulletins **must be submitted at least 10 days** before they are to appear.

Other Events

• **Theology on Tap**: Wed., Dec. 13th, 7 pm, Ray's Place of Fairlawn, 25 Ghent Rd. Rev. Patrick Anderson, Parochial Vicar of St. Mary's, Hudson, will speak on “What to Do in the Darkness and the Pain of Waiting.” \$5 admission includes appetizers. Come experience faith, fellowship & food with other young adults.

• **Retrouvaille Weekend** – Jan. 19 – 21, 2018, Cleveland. Retrouvaille (rediscovery), a lifeline for troubled marriages is supported by the Diocese of Cleveland, but open to couples of all faiths and consists of a weekend experience with six follow up sessions. A registration fee of \$150 is required to confirm your reservation. For more info or to register, please call Marce or Liz Gliha at 440-357-6580 or 1-800-470-2230 or visit www.helpourmarriage.org.

• **Caregiver Support**: The Summit Adult Day Services' support group meets the last Wednesday of each month at 10 am at 812 Biruta St. For info, call 330-762-2000. Free care provided for the older adult while caregivers attend the meetings.

• **Cancer Spirituality Group**: Meetings are twice a month on the 2nd & 4th Thursdays at St. Matthew Rectory, Akron from 11 am - 12:30 pm. This interfaith group is co-facilitated by cancer survivors Pat Flaherty & Linda Herold. For more info, please contact: Pat Flaherty at (330) 628-5725 or at everhiker@sbcglobal.net.