

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF MARY PARISH

February
Month of
The Holy
Family



February 19, 2017
Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

Date	Observance	Mass Time & Intention	Server(s)	Readings	Event/Meeting
Mon Feb 20		5:30 pm James H. Sutphin (Jimmy)	Keegan	Sir 1:1-10; Mk 9:14-29	
Tues Feb 21				Sir 2:1-11; Mk 9:30-37	Free Store 4:30 - 7 pm MH Return to the Faith 7 pm HH
Wed Feb 22	The Chair of St. Peter the Apostle Anointing of the Sick	5:30 pm Louis A. Dirker by Fr. Mike	Keegan	1 Pt 5:1-4; Mt 16:13-19	Contemporary Choir 6:45 pm CH
Thur Feb 23	Polycarp, Bishop & Martyr			Sir 5:1-8; Mk 9:41-50	
Fri Feb 24		5:30 pm Keith Witzl by Frank & Betty Witzl	Keegan	Sir 6:5-17; Mk 10:1-12	
Sat Feb 25		5:30 pm Mary LaRocca by Len & Marilyn Vanko	Morgan	Sir 17:1-15; Mk 10:13-16	Free Store 9:30 - Noon MH Confessions 9 - 10 am CH
Sun Feb 26	Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time	8:30 am Mona McLaughlin by the Altar & Rosary Society 11:00 am People of the Parish	8:30 am Baker 11:00 am Brewer Brewer	Is 49:14-15; 1 Cor 4:1-5; Mt 6:24-34	

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

Before the mountains were begotten and the earth and world were brought forth, for everlasting to everlasting you are God. Sir 15:17

COLLECTION REPORT

Sunday, February 12, 2017

Sunday Offering - \$3,174.45

Cap. Imp./Debt. Red. - \$105

87 of 339 Envelopes Used.

To receive your 2016 Contribution Statement, call the rectory at 330-753-8429, Monday - Friday, 9 am - 4 pm.

Bulletin - all items to be included in the bulletin must be submitted to the rectory by 10 am on Mondays.

Old Palms

If you have old palms and would like to dispose of them, please bring them to church and place them in the box at the main doors of the church.

The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick will be celebrated this Wed., Feb. 22nd at the 5:30 pm Mass.

Holy Family Candle - Special Intention

Return to the Faith

Next Tues., Feb. 21st at 7 pm in Hitch Hall. Please read chapters 7 & 8.

Generations of Faith returns on Thurs., Mar. 2nd, the day after Ash Wednesday. We will continue with our Symbolon series and the topic will be "The Last Things." Bring a snack to share & plan to join us. All are welcome.

Altar & Rosary Society - Communion Sunday is March 5th at the 8:30 am Mass.

Stations of the Cross

Lent is fast approaching. A sign-up sheet will be posted at the main doors of the church next weekend for cross and candle-bearers for Stations. You may sign-up as an individual, a family or as a ministry group.

Ash Wednesday is March 1st. Mass will be celebrated at 7 pm. Liturgical Ministers are needed, please call the rectory.

Lenten Mission/Retreat - Mark your calendars for Thursdays, March 16 & 23 as we will be presenting a video presentation by Bishop Robert Barron entitled "Conversion." Watch the bulletin for more information.

History of Popes

#53 – Pope St. John I - *Pope from 523-526 A.D. Died: 526 A.D.* John was born in Tuscany in 470, but moved to Rome at a young age. He served as a priest for most of his life, and was sickly & somewhat frail at his election on August 13, 523. Most of his time in office was spent wrestling with the centuries-old battle between Arian Christians -- those who said Christ wasn't divine -- and the true Church. Around the time of Pope St. John I's election, the death of the Byzantine emperor, Anastasius I, paved the way for a new emperor, Justin I. He was a Catholic who, wishing to eradicate Arianism in his territories reversed many prior edicts tolerating the heresy and made demands on Arian property and professions of faith. Upon hearing this, Theodoric, the Arian king of Italy, demanded that the pope go to Constantinople & persuade Justin to reconsider his edicts. When Pope John I arrived, the people gave him a welcome one might expect to be given to St. Peter himself, with even the emperor himself prostrating himself at John's feet. Some half-hearted concessions were made. Dissatisfied with this outcome, Theodoric had John thrown in prison before the latter could return to Rome. John, being of ill health, died a few days later on May 18, 526 at the age of 56 & was eventually interred in St. Peter's Basilica. He was immediately venerated as a martyr, and his feast is celebrated on May 18. Of the 23 popes (and 4 antipopes) named John, only the first and the last (John I & John XXIII) are recognized as saints in the Roman Church. What else was going on in the world at the time? Around the same time John I died, a 7.0 magnitude earthquake and ensuing fires, struck Antioch (modern-day Turkey & Syria) and killed 250,000 people in the region.

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHTS

Salmon are known for their prowess in swimming upstream. As human beings we often find it easier & hassle-free to just "go with the flow." We could learn a lot from the mighty salmon. As Christians we need to learn to flow upstream against a culture of death and self-satisfaction. It may be easier to give in to the influences that surround us in the secular world, but we are people of faith and are called to stand firm in faith and uncompromising in principle. Like Jesus, we are called to be counter-cultural. To do this we must open our hearts to a life of conversion so that we may more fully embrace the communion of life and love that is God and fulfill our call to holiness. In this process we learn to be good stewards; to use God's gifts for God and others, not just for ourselves

STEWARDSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

In His Name –We will continue to accept donations for the Peter Maurin Center which serves the poor and the homeless in Akron. They are in **desperate need** of travel-size toiletries. Please drop your donations in the designated baskets by the main doors of the church.

Lenten Almsgiving –The 3 pillars of Lent are prayer, fasting & almsgiving. Containers and information sheets will be available the Weekend of Feb. 25-26. This year, our Lenten alms will help people in El Salvador as we partner with St. Barnabas Parish in Northfield who is working in the mountain region of Teotepeque. Cleveland diocesan priest, Fr. John Ostrowski is on the ground there ministering to 26,000 people in 23 cantons or suburbs. He is stationed at St. Peter the Apostle Church, home also to St. Peter the Apostle Academy both built by St. Barnabas Parish. Our alms will support 2 programs: Education and Works of Charity (Obras de Caridad) which provides food, prayer, consolation, bus money and medicine to those in most need. We encourage you to put your spare change in every day, eat a simple meal once a week and put monies saved into your container, cut back or give up a favorite snack or drink and put the savings in your container.

Lenten Fridays – Beginning March 3rd, we invite you to participate in Lenten Fridays by attending the 5:30 pm Mass, staying for some time of private reflection & prayer and then praying the Stations of the Cross at 6:30 pm.

Lenten Fasting - Ash Wednesday & Good Friday are days of fast & abstinence. Fasting is obligatory for all who are between 18 & 59 years old. Fasting allows a person to eat one full meal and two smaller meals, not to equal one full meal. Abstinence (from meat & meat products) is obligatory beginning at age 14. Fridays in Lent are days of complete abstinence.

Off-Site Events

- **Theology on the Rocks:** Mon., Feb. 20th, D'Agnes's at White Pond, 566 White Pond Dr. Fr. John Valencheck will speak on *The Secret Message Within Your Church*. \$10 admission includes appetizers (7 pm); speaker begins at 7:30 pm. Cash bar. Open to adults of all ages.
- **Six-week Bereavement Support Series** begins on Tues, Feb. 21st, 7 to 9 pm at Our Lady of Victory Parish Center, Tallmadge. Many common issues surrounding grief and healing will be discussed, grounded in faith & surrounded by those who care and understand. For more information or to register please call 330-633-3672.
- **Knights of Columbus Scioto Downs Casino Trip:** Tues., Feb. 28th. Cost \$30 - Free play TBA - call Donna White at 330-753-9984 for information & reservations.
- **Free Online Lenten Series:** Experience the power of the Church's seven signs of grace in the St. Paul Center's new video study, **The Bible and the Sacraments**. Sign up for the free online study at BibleandtheSacraments.com. Join host Matthew Leonard for this eleven lesson series that explores how and why the seven Sacraments are God's gifts of life and love to His children. The study begins on March 1 and will continue throughout the Lenten season.
- **Community Pregnancy Center** in Barberton is looking for volunteers to work one-on-one with clients. Training is provided. For more information, please contact Peggy at 330-825-1900 or peggy@communitypregnancycenter.org. (Community Pregnancy Center is a Christian outreach ministry faithful to the teachings of the Catholic Church.)