

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF MARY PARISH



December
Month of The
Immaculate
Conception

December 17, 2017
Third 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 18		5:30 pm Mary Ann Duhon by Fred & Joan Kasburg	Wilson	Jer 23:5-6; Mt 1:18-25	
Tues Dec 19				Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Lk 1:5-25	Free Store 4:30 - 7 pm SB Church Decorating 6:30 pm CH
Wed Dec 20		5:30 pm Walter, Christine & Thomas Bandelow by Family	Wilson	Is 7:10-14; Lk 1:26-38	Contemporary Choir 6:45 pm CH
Thur Dec 21	Peter Canisius, Priest & Doctor			Sg 2:8-14; Lk 1:39-45	
Fri Dec 22		5:30 pm Sr. Francesca Rauckhorst by Family	Wilson	1 Sm 1:24-28; Lk 1:46-56	Rectory Closes at Noon
Sat Dec 23	John of Kanty, Priest	5:30 pm Andy Ervin by Friends	Cole	Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Lk 1:57-66	Confessions 9 - 10 am CH Free Store Closed
	Fourth Sunday of Advent  Christmas Eve 	8:30 am Steve & Anna Zamesko by Steve & Toni Zamesko 11 am People of the Parish 5:30 pm Frank C. Smith by Fr. Mike 10 pm Charles Wilson by Wilson Family	8:30 am Baker 11 am Compton Hamilton 5:30 pm Cole Morgan 10 pm Keegan Wilson	2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38 Is 62:1-5; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 Is 9:1-6; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14	
Sun Dec 24					

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.

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold our God will come, and he will save us. Is 35:4

COLLECTION REPORT

Sunday, Dec. 10, 2017

Sunday Offering - \$3,539.50

Cap. Imp./Debt. Red. - \$80

Feast of the Immaculate Conception - \$639

102 of 341 Envelopes Used.

Acme Cashback - The current earning period ends Dec. 30th. Be sure to place all your Acme receipts in the baskets by the doors of the church. Every receipt counts! Last year we were #5 in total receipts, this year let's go for #1!

Holy Family Candle - Herald Family

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).

Church Decorating - Join us **this** Tues., Dec. 19th at 6:30 pm to help make our church beautiful for Christmas. Many hands make light work. Hope to see you there!

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.

St. Vincent de Paul - November report: we provided food for 181 people in 58 households.

Advent Reflection

One of the reasons Pope Francis is so admired around the world is because of his constant joy. By his words and his example, he tells us the Church should be a place of joy. It follows that we, as members of the Church, should also be people of joy. The angels who hover over the manger came to bring joy. As Luke writes, "Do not be afraid: for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy." Are our lives too noisy to hear the joyful song of the angels? Are we too busy to look up and see them singing in the night? Even if we are not yet feeling all the joy of Christmas, we can still give the gift of joy to others. The beauty of the angels was not so much in that they were joyful themselves, but that they brought joyful tidings to the world. For a Christian, this should be a time to bring as much joy as possible to as many people as possible. "The joy of the Gospel is for all people: no one can be excluded. That is what the angel proclaimed to the shepherds in Bethlehem," writes Pope Francis in *Evangelii Gaudium*. (Taken from an OSV News Weekly article on osv.com)

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHTS

Today we mark the halfway point in Advent and it is known as Gaudette Sunday. In Latin, Gaudete means "rejoice." We get so busy shopping, decorating & preparing that we work ourselves into a tizzy, anxious about all that has yet to be done and, hopefully anxious for the coming of the Christ Child. On this Sunday, the Church urges us to slow down & focus on the joy of the season. For what are you joyful? There's lots of rejoicing in our scriptures this week. From God's chosen people who have been exiled and have returned home to Mary who rejoices after her visit from the angel Gabriel, to St. Paul urging the Thessalonians to rejoice, pray without ceasing and be thankful to John the Baptist who is preparing people for the coming of the Messiah. As stewards of the faith, are you taking time to prepare inwardly; preparing your hearts for Jesus? Are you taking time for prayer and reflection as we move closer to the Feast? Have you spent any time thinking about the fact that God intentionally chose to take on a human body and enter into our world? How amazing is that!

STEWARDSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

In His Name – We are 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 designated basket by the main doors of the church.

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.

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.

First Glance All Student Christmas Party will be held on Thurs., Dec. 21st. If you would like to help with decorating on the 20th, help at the event or donate needed foods, please call the rectory for information.

Mission Dresses – If you would like to help in any way with this Corporal Work of Mercy, clothing the naked, please contact the rectory.

Liturgical Ministers - are needed for Christmas & New Years: please call the rectory.

Christmas Eve 5:30 pm: Lector: T. Cole; EMHC: **need**; Servers: M. Cole, L. Morgan; M of H - **need**

Christmas Eve 10 pm: Lector: B. Langton, EMHC: J. Langton, J. & J. Osolin, C. & J. Eggert; Servers: M. Keegan, J. Wilson, **need**; M of H: L. Wilson, S. Wilson, L. Eggert, B. Placity

Christmas Day 10 am: Lector: V. Lackney, EMHC: K. & J. Sboray, **need**; Servers: R. Baker, **need**; M of H: **need**.

Jan 1, 9:30 am: Lector: B. Langton, EMHC: J. Langton; **need**; Servers: R. Baker, **need**; M of H: **need**.

Other Events

• **Catholics Returning Home:** A six-week initiative beginning Wednesday, January 10, 2018 from 7 to 8:30 pm in the Parish Center Library at Our Lady of Victory Parish, 73 North Avenue in Tallmadge. This is an opportunity for anyone wishing to bring healing to their relationships whether with God, His Church, others or even within their own hearts. For information, please call 330-633-3637.

• **Retrouvaille Weekend** – Jan. 19 – 21, 2018, Cleveland. Retrouvaille (rediscovery), a lifeline for troubled marriages. A registration fee of \$150 is required. 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. Retrouvaille 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.

• **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.

• **Financial Peace University:** St. Hilary Faculty Lounge, 6:45 – 8:30 pm, Wednesdays beginning Jan. 10th. A 9 week series based on the teachings of Dave Ramsey, author & talk show host, that will teach you how to save money, eliminate debt, build a financial plan and retire with a nest-egg. Cost is \$100. For more info, contact Jim Bennett at 330-836-5184 or jnbenn1@yahoo.com.