

# IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF MARY PARISH



December  
Month of The  
Immaculate  
Conception

Dec 9, 2018  
Second 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 10		5:30 pm <b>Jack &amp; Sylvia Wright</b> by the Hudak Family	Wilson	Is 35:1-10; Lk 5:17-26	
Tues Dec 11	Damasus I, Pope			Is 40:1-11; Mt 18:12-14	<b>Free Store</b> 4:30 pm - 7 pm <b>SB</b> <b>Altar &amp; Rosary Society</b> 6 pm HH <b>Lector Training</b> 7 pm CH
Wed Dec 12	Our Lady of Guadalupe	5:30 pm <b>Amanda Mills</b> by Barberton Med. Records Dept.	Wilson	Zec 2:14-17; Lk 1:26-38	<b>Contemporary Choir</b> 6:45 pm CH
Thur Dec 13	Lucy, Virgin & Martyr			Is 41:13-20; Mt 11:11-15	
Fri Dec 14	John of the Cross, Priest & Doctor	5:30 pm <b>Candi Caruso</b> by Family	Wilson	Is 48:17-19; Mt 11:16-19	
Sat Dec 15		5:30 pm <b>Emilio Ciccolini</b> by son, Fr. Sam	5:30 pm Cole	Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Mt 17:9a, 10-13	<b>Confessions</b> 9 am -10 am CH <b>Free Store</b> 9:30 am - Noon SB
Sun Dec 16	Third Sunday of Advent  <b>Bambinelli Sunday</b>	8:30 am <b>People of the Parish</b> 11 am <b>Martha Vanca</b> by Steve & Toni Zamesko	8:30 am Brown 11 am Brewer Brewer	Zep 3:14-18a; Phil 4:4-7; Lk 3:10-18	

## Sanctuary Lamp - Special Intention

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

Please come to the rectory for entry to the church.

There were 3 Holy Hours last week.

*Let love be sincere; hate what is evil, hold on to that which is good. Romans 12:10*

## Liturgical Needs - Christmas

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

Christmas Eve 10 pm - Lector: need; EMCH: J & J. Osolin, need; Servers: M. Keegan, L. Morgan, need; Min of Hosp. - S. Wilson, L. Wilson, need.

Christmas Day 10 am - Lector: need; EMHC: need; Servers: R. Baker, need; M. of H.: need

**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 next weekend, December 15 & 16 for a special blessing.

**SVdP Food Pantry** - November report: we provided food for 164 people in 50 households.

## Holy Family Candle - Special Intention

• **Altar & Rosary Society News - Christmas Dinner** - **this Tues., Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>**, 6 pm, Hitch Hall. Main course: Chicken Primavera. Cost is \$10/person. RSVP to Lorie at 330-322-7414. Please bring toothpaste and bar soap for our SVdP pantry.

• **Lector Training** - **this Tues., Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>**, 7 pm. Must have a clear speaking voice, good communication skills and a love for Sacred Scripture.

• **Church Decorating** - 6:30 pm on Tues., Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>. All are welcome. Many hands make light work.

Congratulations to **Phyllis Stock & Kim Kreeger** who celebrated the Rite of Acceptance for R.C.I.A. last Saturday. Phyllis is a Catechumen who is seeking Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist and Kim is a Candidate seeking Confirmation and Eucharist. Please keep them in your prayers as they continue on their journeys into full initiation in the Catholic Church.

**Early Bulletin Deadlines** - Items for the bulletin need to be submitted at least 10 days before the bulletin is to be distributed. All items for the Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup> bulletin must be submitted to the rectory by Thurs., Dec. 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Advent Reflection from Pope Benedict XVI (excerpt from December 9, 2007 Homily)**

Dear Brothers and Sisters, Yesterday, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, the liturgy invited us to turn our gaze to Mary, Mother of Jesus and our Mother, Star of Hope for every person. Today, while the Advent journey continues and we prepare to celebrate the Birth of Christ, John the Baptist's appeal for conversion rings out in our communities. It is a pressing invitation to open our hearts to receive the Son of God, who comes among us to make manifest the divine judgement. The Heavenly Father, who expressed his merciful love to us through the birth of his Only-Begotten Son, calls us to follow in his footsteps, making our existence, as he did, a gift of love. Through the Gospel, John the Baptist continues to speak down the centuries to every generation. His words are particularly salutary for us, men & women of our time, in which the way of living and perceiving Christmas unfortunately all too often suffers the effects of a materialistic mindset. The "voice" of the great prophet asks us to prepare the way of the Lord, who comes in the external & internal wildernesses of today, thirsting for the living water that is Christ. May the Virgin Mary guide us to true conversion of heart, so that we may make the necessary choices to harmonize our mentalities with the Gospel.

**STEWARDSHIP THOUGHTS**

The reading from Baruch brings to mind a recent reflection by Bishop Robert Barron. Baruch tells Israel to take off the robes of mourning & misery and put on the splendor of glory from God, bear on their heads the mitre that displays for all the glory of God's name, to rejoice that they are named & remembered by God, for God is leading them in joy. Bishop Barron's reflection centered on possessiveness & how our happiness is based on what we have or want to have. He reminds us that we have everything we need right now to be happy and that is love. God loved Israel so much that there was no reason for them to mourn, to live in misery and it is the same for us. God gave us His Son and that act of love illustrates what Bishop Barron said "Love is not a feeling. It's an act of the will." As we prepare for the coming of this act, this gift of love let us be good stewards of the faith by sharing with others the real reason for the season and the joy it brings.

**STEWARDSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**

**Bingo** - Thank you to those who stepped forward to help with clean up. We'd like to have a few more so we can form teams. Please call the rectory.

**In His Name** – We are collecting warm socks for men, women and children to be distributed to the homeless by Hoban High School through **Project Hope**. Also collecting hats, gloves, scarves, mittens, etc. for the Peter Maurin Center and the Free Store; toiletries for the Peter Maurin Center is ongoing.

The building at the corner of 15<sup>th</sup> Street NW and Shannon Avenue in Barberton is no longer a Catholic church. The site was sold by the Diocese of Cleveland in 2011 following the closure of Sts. Cyril & Methodius Parish. The building is now occupied by "C&M" "Christus et me" "Orthodox Old Catholic Church." This group has no affiliation with the Diocese of Cleveland and is not in full communion with the rest of the Catholic Church. Catholics are **not encouraged** to attend services at this site. The Diocese of Cleveland has no way to verify whether or not ministers at that church building are validly ordained. Furthermore, the administration of sacraments which depend on faculties or on ecclesiastical authority may be invalid even if the minister were validly ordained. Please contact the diocesan Chancery with any questions related to this matter.

**COLLECTION REPORT**

*Week Ending*

	<i>November 18</i>	<i>November 25</i>
<b>Sunday Offering</b>	\$3,271.00	\$2561.60
<b>Daily Offering –</b>	183.00	37.50
<b>Holy Day –</b>	.00	10.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3454.00</b>	<b>\$2609.10</b>
<b>Weekly Budget to meet operating costs</b>	<b>\$4,590.00</b>	<b>\$4,590.00</b>
<b>(Shortfall) Over</b>	<b>(\$1,136.00)</b>	<b>(1,980.90)</b>
<b>St. Vincent de Paul –</b>	\$30.00	\$135.00
<b>Capital Improvements –</b>	30.00	335.00
<b>Debt Reduction –</b>	550.00	.00
Envelopes used of 324 sent	81	70
141 households have not used their envelopes in 2018		

**Special Collection** – Senior Catholic sisters, brothers & religious order priests ministered for years for little or no pay. Their sacrifices now leave their religious communities without adequate retirement savings. Your gift to today's special collection for the Religious Retirement Fund for Religious helps to provide medications, nursing care, and more for tens of thousands of elderly religious. Please be generous.

**All Things Advent** – Be sure to pick up a copy of Journey through Advent available at the doors of the church. This form contains information on the many things that will be happening over the next few weeks.

*Other Events*

- Divorced, Separated and Widowed Catholics:** Mon., Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 pm, Immaculate Heart of Mary Convent Bldg. Lou Ann Redmond of Redmond Funeral Home will talk about "Dealing with Grief over the Holidays." Pizza and refreshments will be at 7:15. For info, call 330-607-6284.
- Theology on Tap:** Wed., Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>, 7 pm, Harbor Front Grille & Party Center. Fr. John Valencheck, Pastor, St. Sebastian, will talk on "The Secret Message within Your Church." Admission is \$5 and includes appetizers. The bar will be open for those who would like to purchase beverages. Come experience faith, fellowship, and food with other young adults in their 20's and 30's.
- Cancer Spirituality Group:** the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays at St. Matthew Rectory, Akron, 11 am - 12:30 pm. For info, contact: Pat Flaherty, 330-628-5725 or [everhiker@sbcglobal.net](mailto:everhiker@sbcglobal.net).