

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF MARY PARISH



December
Month of The
Immaculate
Conception

December 23, 2018
Fourth 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 24	Christmas Eve	5:30 pm Jerry Hardesty by Family 10 pm Frank C. Smith by the Smith Family	Cole Keegan Morgan Wilson	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	
Tues Dec 25	The Nativity of the Lord	***10 am*** Ann Blondin by Lisa & Ed Roeger	Baker	Is 62:11-12; Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20	
Wed Dec 26	Stephen, The First Martyr Anointing of the Sick	5:30 pm Patrick Steurer by Family	Keegan	Act 6:8-10, 7:54-59; Mt 10:17-22	Rectory Closed
Thur Dec 27	John, Apostle & Evangelist			1 Jn 1:1-4; Jn 20:1a, 2-8	
Fri Dec 28	The Holy Innocents, Martyrs	5:30 pm Ora Adams by the Altar & Rosary Society	Keegan	1 Jn 1:5 - 2:2; Mt 2:13-18	
Sat Dec 29	Thomas Becket, Bishop & Martyr	5:30 pm People of the Parish	5:30 pm Cole	1 Jn 2:3-11; Lk 2:22-25	Confessions 9 am -10 am CH Free Store 9:30 - noon SB
Sun Dec 30	The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph	8:30 am Karen Hardesty by Family 11 am Amanda Mills by George & Rosemary Madjerac	8:30 am Brown 11 am Brewer Brewer	1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28; 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24; Lk 2:41-52	

Sanctuary Lamp - Benjamin Blankenship

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

Please come to the rectory for entry to the church.

There were 5 Holy Hours last week.

For the love of God is this, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, for whoever is begotten by God conquers the world. 1 John 5:3-4a

Christmas - Masses on Christmas Eve are 5:30 pm and 10 pm. Mass on Christmas Day is at 10 am. The rectory will be closed on Monday, Dec. 24th, Christmas Day and Wednesday, Dec. 26th. There will be no Holy Hours Dec. 24 & 25. The Free Store will be closed Dec. 25th & Jan. 1st and will be open Dec. 29th. Bingo will be open on Wed., Dec. 26th.

New Years - January 1st is the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, a Holy Day of Obligation. Mass will be celebrated Dec. 31st at 5:30 pm and Jan. 1st at 10 am. Liturgical Ministers are needed:

The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick will be celebrated this Wed., Dec. 26th at the 5:30 pm Mass

Holy Family Candle - Special Intention

Liturgical Needs

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

Christmas Eve 10 pm - Lector: need; EMHC: J & J. Osolin, B. Plasity, need; Servers: M. Keegan, L. Morgan, J. Wilson; M of H: S. Wilson, L. Wilson, need.

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

New Year's Eve 5:30 pm - Lector: need; EMHCs: need; Servers: need; M of H: need.

New Year's Day 10 am - Lector: need; EMHC: R. Devoe, need; Servers: Baker, Compton; M of H: need.

• **Adult Faith Enrichment** - There will be no sessions in January or February; our next session will be March 7.

• **Going out of town?** Find parishes & Mass times at www.masstimes.org.

• **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 Jan. 6th bulletin must be submitted to the rectory by Thurs., Dec. 27th.

Advent Reflection from Loyola Press

In the encounter between Mary and Elizabeth in today's Gospel, we learn that other people can help us recognize God's presence & action in our lives. Mary traveled to see Elizabeth because Elizabeth's pregnancy was a sign that everything the angel told Mary would truly happen. Elizabeth recognized Mary as the mother of her Lord because her unborn child, John the Baptist, leapt at the sound of Mary's greeting. Elizabeth and Mary rejoiced together at the wonderful things God was doing in their lives. We too are blessed when we have people who help us recognize God's action in our lives. We pray that our family can be this for one another. As you gather as a family, work together on a word search or hidden-picture puzzle until everyone has found each of the words or pictures in the puzzle. Talk about how people found words or pictures more easily than others & how easy it was to see the word or picture once someone else pointed it out. Observe that sometimes we need the help of others to recognize God's presence and action in our lives. Read today's Gospel together. Ask: What did Elizabeth recognize about Mary? (That she was to be the mother of Jesus, the Lord.) How did Elizabeth know this? (Her baby leapt with joy at Mary's greeting.) Pray together that as we share our faith together as a family, we may help one another recognize God's presence and action in our lives. Pray the Hail Mary together.

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHTS

Modes of communication and transportation have certainly changed since Mary's time. She couldn't drive, fly, text or call her relative Elizabeth when she received news of Elizabeth's pregnancy – a miracle in itself since she was older and considered barren. In the story, Mary, herself pregnant, made a long and dangerous journey to be present and to help her relative. How often do you reach out to share the gift of yourself and your support with others? We now have texting, twitter and so many other ways of communicating without talking, but they don't compare with hearing the live voice of a loved one over the phone or in person. There is a joy, peace & comfort that comes from that experience and something we often take for granted until it is too late. Whose voice would you like to hear? Who would love to hear your voice? The two mothers-to-be come together to praise God and his miraculous action in their lives. Elizabeth's unborn child, John the Baptist, also gives praise to God for when he hears Mary's voice, he leaps for joy because he recognizes his Lord, Jesus. How often do you give praise to God for all God has done in your life? Does the presence of Jesus in your life bring you joy – a joy you share with others? It's the perfect season to do so!

STEWARDSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Giving Tree – 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.

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.

Acme Cashback is ending soon! The last day for qualifying purchases is Dec. 29th. Be sure to turn in all your receipts in the baskets by the doors of the church.

Masses - Praying for our loved ones who have passed away and offering a Mass in remembrance of them is important to us as Catholics. If you would like to schedule a Mass, please call the rectory; the stipend is \$10. We are currently scheduling Masses through 2019.

COLLECTION REPORT *Week Ending*

	<i>December 2</i>	<i>December 9</i>
Sunday Offering	\$4,456.00	\$3,766.00
Daily Offering –	860.00	863.00
Holy Day –	20.00	967.00
Total	5,336.00	\$5,596.00
Weekly Budget to meet		
operating costs	\$4,590.00	\$4,590.00
(Shortfall) Over	746.00	1,006.00
St. Vincent de Paul –	\$285.00	\$40.00
Capital Improvements –	--	75.00
Debt Reduction –	\$418.00	99.00
Religious Retirement –	20.00	283.00

Envelopes used of 324 sent 83 82
141 households have not used their envelopes in 2018

Other Events

• **Cancer Spirituality Group:** the 2nd & 4th Thursdays at St. Matthew Rectory, Akron, 11 am - 12:30 pm. For info, contact: Pat Flaherty, 330-628-5725 or everhiker@sbcglobal.net.

• **What Would You Ask Our Bishop?** What would you ask Bishop Perez if he was sitting at your kitchen table? The next episode of *Table Talk* featuring Bishop Perez will air on AM 1260 The Rock on Jan. 17th at 5 pm and will be re-broadcast Jan. 19th at 1 pm and Jan. 20th at noon. To be part of *Table Talk*, submit your questions by January 1st to tabletalk@am1260therock.com. For audio archive of previous episodes, visit www.am1260therock.com.

• **A Six-week Bereavement Support Series** will begin Tues, Jan. 15 from 7 to 9 pm at Our Lady of Victory Parish Center, Tallmadge. The evenings will provide insight, understanding and support to those who mourn the loss of a loved one. Grounded in faith and surrounded by those who care and understand, many common issues surrounding grief and healing will be discussed. For more information or to register please call 330-633-3672.