


IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF MARY PARISH



December
Month of The
Immaculate
Conception

December 15, 2019
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 16		5:30 pm Thomas Kreeger by Kreeger Family	Burkhart	Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a; Mt 21:23-27	
Tues Dec 17				Gn 49:2, 8-10; Mt 1:1-17	Free Store 4:30 -7 pm SB Church Decorating 6:30 pm HH
Wed Dec 18		5:30 pm Chris McDonald by Kelly, Jerome & Bart	Burkhart	Jer 23:5-8; Mt 1:18-25	Contemporary Choir 6:45 pm CH
Thur Dec 19				Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Lk 1:5-25	
Fri Dec 20		5:30 pm Monica Fehn by John Madia	Burkhart	Is 7:10-14; Lk 1:26-38	
Sat Dec 21	Peter Canisius, Priest & Doctor	5:30 pm People of the Parish	5:30 pm Ortscheid Ortscheid	Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Lk 1:39-45	Confessions 9 - 10 am CH Free Store 9:30 - Noon SB
Sun Dec 22	Fourth Sunday of Advent	8:30 am Steve & Anna Zamesko by Steve & Toni Zamesko 11 am Deceased Family Members of Bob & Kathy Doerr	8:30 am Baker 11 am Wilson	Is 7:10-14; Rom 1:1-7; Mt 1:18-24	

Sanctuary Lamp - Special Intention

Holy Hours: Mon. & Tues. 9 am – 5 pm.
Please come to the rectory for entry to the church.
There were 3 Holy Hours made last week.
Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice.
Indeed the Lord is near. Phil. 4:4-5

COLLECTION REPORT

Week Ending	Dec 1	Dec 8
Sunday Offering -	\$2,776.00	\$3,199.00
Daily Offering -	\$100.00	\$421.00
Holy Day -	\$60.00	\$877.00
Total	\$2,936.00	\$4,488.00
Weekly Budget		
operating costs	\$3,945.00	\$3,945.00
(Shortfall) Overage	(\$1,009.00)	543.00
St. Vincent de Paul -	\$205.00	\$55.00
Capital Improvement -	\$10.00	\$10.00
Debt Reduction -	\$305.00	\$162.00
Religious Retirement	-	\$204.00
Other Gifts -	-	\$569.34
Envs used of 260 sent	70	70
95 households receiving envelopes have not used them in 2019.		

The last opportunity for the **Sacrament of Reconciliation** during Advent will be Saturday, Dec. 21st.

Holy Family Candle - Special Intention

- **Come All Ye Faithful** to decorate our church for Christmas **this Tues.**, Dec. 17th at 6:30 pm.
- The **Free Store** will be closed Tues., Dec. 24th, Sat., Dec. 28th and Tues, Dec. 31st.
- The **Food Pantry** will be closed Thursdays, Dec. 26th & Jan. 2nd.

Advent Reading – Stop by our library in Hitch Hall during the week, before or after Mass or see books available for check-out on the tables by the main doors.

Holiday on the Blvd. Thank you to our Parish Activities Committee, our Cookie Elves, the Snack Pack, those who shared their stewardship of time to help, those who donated prizes, gift packs & crafts and Acme in Kenmore for their donation of hot dogs & buns. It was a wonderful day and we hope we made many new friends! Check the website for pictures.

Early Bulletin Deadlines - Items for the bulletin need to be submitted at least 10 days before the bulletin is to be distributed. Items for the Dec. 29th bulletin must be submitted to the rectory before Thurs., Dec. 19th.

*Due to Christmas & New Year's Day, the **Anointing of the Sick** for December will be on Mon., Dec. 23rd at the 5:30 pm Mass.*

Advent Reflection

Today's reflection is excerpted from Pope Francis' 'Angelus', St. Peter's Square, Dec. 11th, 2016. "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.... The Lord is at hand" (Phil 4:4-5). It is not a superficial or purely emotional cheerfulness that Paul exhorts, nor is it the cheerfulness of worldliness or of consumerism, rather, it entails a more authentic joy, the taste of which we are called to rediscover... It is a joy that touches our innermost being, as we await Jesus, who has already come to bring salvation to the world, the promised Messiah, born in Bethlehem of the Virgin Mary. The liturgy of the Word offers us the appropriate context for understanding and living out this joy... But a Christian who isn't joyful is a Christian who is lacking something, or else is not a Christian! It is heartfelt joy, the joy within which leads us forth and gives us courage. The Lord comes, he comes into our life as a liberator; he comes to free us from all forms of interior and exterior slavery. It is he who shows us the path of faithfulness, of patience and of perseverance because, upon his return, our joy will be overflowing. Christmas is near, the signs of his approach are evident along our streets & in our houses... Today we are called to rejoice for the imminent coming of our Redeemer; and we are called to share this joy with others, giving comfort and hope to the poor, the sick, and to people who are lonely and unhappy. May the Virgin Mary, the "handmaid of the Lord", help us to hear God's voice in prayer and to serve him with compassion in our brothers, so as to be prepared for the Christmas appointment, preparing our hearts to welcome Jesus.

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHTS

We are halfway through Advent and the coming of the Lord is growing closer. We can become anxious about getting all our holiday plans finished – are we as anxious, excited, joyful about the coming of the Lord? We must guard against the materialism of the season and remember the real reason for the season – the Incarnation – God becoming man & choosing to enter our sinful world. There can be no greater gift than that – ever! May we continue to spend stewardship of time in prayer to prepare ourselves for this wondrous gift and may our stewardship of time and treasure be spent helping those less fortunate and those in need.

STEWARDSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Free Store – Consider helping others by sort items for the store. Your stewardship is greatly appreciated.

Adventures in Home Safety! The Fire Marshall has completed inspection of our church, rectory, convent & school buildings. We are required to install illuminated "EXIT" signs at the doors of the church, create dedicated electrical lines for the rectory copy room and in the St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry storage room. "Wishing Well" contribution baskets are at the main doors of the church and the door nearest the parking lot to help cover this unanticipated maintenance expense. Please be generous.

Liturgical Ministers are needed for all Christmas liturgies. Please see Melissa or call the rectory to share your stewardship:

Christmas Eve 5:30 pm – Lector: Cole, EMHC: M. & C. Gruic, **need**; Servers: **need**; Mins. of Hosp.: **need**.

Christmas Eve 10 pm – Lector: Langton; EMHC: J. & C. Eggert, J. & J. Osolin, **need**; Servers: Morgan, Keegan, Langton; Mins. of Hosp. Eggert, J. & P. January, **need**.

Christmas Day 10 am – Lector: Lackney; EMHC: Compton, **need**; Servers: Baker, **need**; Mins. of Hosp.: **need**.

Holy Day – Mother of God: - Dec. 31 5:30 pm & Jan. 1 10 am – **need everything**.

Please do not presume someone else will do the ministry – step forward.

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.

In His Name – We are collecting new warm socks for the homeless through **Project Hope** at Hoban High School. Toiletries for the Peter Maurin Center is ongoing.

Acme Cashback - Please place all Acme receipts in the baskets by the doors of the church.

We want to express our thanks to the parish community for your prayers, kind thoughts and support during Bob's recent surgery and continued recovery. Special thanks to Fr. Mike, Melissa, Mother Mary's Music Makers, and Kathy Franz.

Bob and Kathy Doerr

We extend a warm welcome to all visitors to our parish and hope to see you again!

Other Events

• **Advent Retreat For Women:** *Advent Evening of Reflection:* Dec. 17. Join us for a simple supper, spiritual fellowship & sharing as we spend time in quiet prayer with scripture in the spirit of St. Francis. For more info or to register, visit www.loyolaretreathouse.com or call 330-896-2315.

• **Local Advent Reflections from AM 1260 The Rock:** Fr. Ryan Mann, Parochial Vicar at St. John Neumann Parish, will share his Advent reflections on AM 1260 The Rock each week. Tune in to AM 1260 The Rock to hear Fr. Mann's reflections, Gospel reflections, & other great programming to make your Advent a time of prayer and preparation. Visit www.am1260therock.com for our program schedule.

• **Grief Support Group:** Sun., Dec. 15th 3 - 4 pm; Holy Cross Cemetery main office. The topic for December is: Emmanuel/God With Us: You Are Not Alone. If you are interested in participating in our Grief Support Groups, please contact Rhonda at 216-930-4866. A reservation is not required, but is appreciated.

• **Men's Conference:** Mark your calendars now for Sat., March 31st, 2020 for the Diocese of Cleveland Catholic Men's Conference. Visit www.cmfneo.com for more info.