

“And the
Word
became flesh and
dwelt
among us.”

- John 1:14

CHRISTMAS 2024

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF MARY

2101 Seventeenth Street, SW, Akron, OH 44314

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December
Month of The
Immaculate
Conception

December 22, 2024

Fourth Sunday of Advent

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

Date	Observance	Mass Intention	Readings	Event
Mon Dec 23	John of Kanty, Priest		Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Lk 1:57-66	
Tues Dec 24	Christmas Eve	5:00 pm Frank C. Smith by Fr. Mike	Is 62:1-5; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25	Rectory will close at noon Free Store Closed
Wed Dec 25	The Nativity of the Lord	10:00 am Shirley Felice by Regina Banko	Is 62:11-12; Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20	Rectory - Closed No Bingo
Thurs Dec 26	Stephen, The First Martyr		Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-59; Mt 10:17-22	Rectory Closed SVdP Food Pantry Closed
Fri Dec 27	John, Apostle & Evangelist		1 Jn 1:1-4; Jn 20:1a, 2-8	Rectory Closed
Sat Dec 28	The Holy Innocents, Martyrs	5:00 pm Patrick J. Grady by University of Dayton Alumni	1 Jn 1:5 – 2:2; Mt 2:13-18	No Confessions Free Store Closed
Sun Dec 29	The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph	10:00 am Ellin Compton by Ray Compton	1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28; 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24; Lk 2:41-52	

Sanctuary Lamp - Harry & Dorothy Holtz

Holy Family Candle - Fr. Michael B. Smith

COLLECTION REPORT

Week Ending Due to early submission deadlines,
Sunday Offering - updates to this report will be delayed
Daily Offering - for the next few weeks.
Christmas -
Holy Day -

Total
Weekly offertory budget
(Shortfall) Overage
YTD Over (short) -
St. Vincent de Paul -
Capital Improvement -
Debt Reduction -
Diocese Designated -
Other Gifts -
Envelopes used of 240 sent

Available Mass Dates
Saturdays: 5:00 pm: Mar 29, Apr 12, May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31
Sundays: 10:00 am: May 25, Aug 17, 31, Sep 28, Nov 23

Daily Mass & Confessions: Because we have no priest, we no longer offer daily Masses nor Confessions. Please use this handy guide: *St. Augustine:* Confessions - Saturdays at 3 pm & Mondays at 6 pm. Daily Mass: M, W, Th, F, 12:05 pm & Tuesdays, 5:15 pm. *St. Francis:* Confessions - Saturdays from 9-9:45 am & Thursdays from 5:30-6:15 pm. Daily Mass: M-F, 8:15 am & Thursdays at 6:30 pm.

Holiday Hours: The rectory will CLOSE on Christmas Eve, Tuesday, December 24th at noon and will REMAIN CLOSED until Monday, December 30th. It will CLOSE at noon on December 31st and will be CLOSED January 1st. There will be NO Bingo on December 25th & January 1st. The Kenmore Free Store will be CLOSED December 24th, December 28th, December 31st. The St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry will BE CLOSED December 26th & January 2nd.

Christmas Masses: Mass on **Christmas Eve** will be celebrated at **5:00 pm**. Mass on Christmas **morning** will be celebrated at **10:00 am**.

Mary, Mother of God Holy Day: The **Vigil Mass** on December 31st will be celebrated at **5:30 pm**. Mass on the **Holy Day**, January 1st will be celebrated at **10:00 am**.

Adult Faith Enrichment does not meet in January nor February because of the uncertainty of the weather. Our next session will be Thursday, March 6th.

Debt Reduction: Your generosity in using the special yellow envelope will help us pay our monthly assessment of \$2,701.00 to the diocese. Thank you.

Exposition & Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will be held in the church Friday, January 3rd from 1-2 pm. All are welcome to come and be with Jesus in the Eucharist. Come to pray, tell Jesus your joys and sorrows, difficulties and anxieties and allow Him to do what He does best – restore, heal and transform.

“The coming of Jesus in Bethlehem brought joy to the world and every human heart. The same Jesus comes again and again in our hearts during Holy Communion. He wants to give the same joy and peace. Let us keep that joy of loving Jesus in our hearts and share that joy with all that we come in touch with.”

Mother Teresa

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHTS

As we observe this 4th Sunday of Advent, the excitement of Christmas is only days away. It's hoped that this Advent season is giving you the opportunity to focus on the holy more than the secular and that you've had the time to spiritually prepare yourselves for the coming of the Christ Child by making a home for Him in your hearts. Then after coming to worship the Infant King, opening the Christmas presents and sharing the Christmas feast, please take the time to reflect on the greatest gift ever given, that of Jesus our Savior and Lord and the mystery of the Incarnation – God choosing to take on flesh to enter our sinful world. Picture the simple manger which, in actuality, was a trough that held food for animals. The infant Jesus was placed in a trough meant for feeding and as the Bread of Life gives us His Body and Blood in the Eucharist – our spiritual food. Reflect, internalize, never forget, be a faithful disciple and share the good news that Jesus came for everyone. Happy Advent and wishes for a blessed and transforming Christmas.

STEWARDSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

A parish family is like a personal family. There are jobs & chores that need doing & if they don't get done, things don't run smoothly. Here are "chores/jobs" that need doing.

Funeral Dinner Ministry: Be a part of the serving team or sign up to be called when food is needed. Please call the rectory to help with this ministry.

Free Store Help: Looking for a fulfilling opportunity? Have a heart for those in need, like to work with friendly, faith-filled people? Stop by Tuesdays, 4-7 pm or Saturdays, 9 am – noon, to check it out & join the team!

In His Name: Trial size toiletry items (things that will easily fit in a backpack) for the Peter Maurin Center may be placed in the basket at the main doors of the church.

Acme Cashback: The current program runs through February 15th. Please be sure to place any Acme receipts with Cashback Rewards on them in the baskets by the doors of the church.

Snow: Because we have very limited personnel, if we receive a heavy snowfall, entry to the church will be through Hitch Hall only. We have snowblowers and shovels, so if anyone is able to help with snow removal, please call the rectory.

Ministers: We're in need of altar servers, lectors and ministers of hospitality. Please call the rectory for info.

St. Vincent de Paul is in need of volunteers in our food pantry. The pantry is open Thursdays noon – 2:00 pm distributing food & hygiene items to those in need. If interested and available, please call Lorie Papp at 330-322-7414. Thank you!

Bingo Help!! Our dedicated group of Bingo workers need some help. Bingo income is critical to our parish finances so will you please share a few hours of your time to help call Bingo, pass out computers, collect money at the door, call back winners, sell instant tickets or work in the kitchen? If you're available Wednesdays, please call parishioner & Bingo manager, Lorie at 330-322-7414. Doors open at 9:30 a.m.; games begin at 11 a.m. Any help would be greatly appreciated. Thank you!

Free Store Sack Lunch needs: You're making a difference! **What's needed:** Individually wrapped snack & cookie packages, cases of water bottles, small individual bags of chips, snack-size plastic bags and lunch-size brown paper bags (size 5 or larger). You may also donate cash which will be used to buy cheese sticks & other supplies. Put **cash donations** in an envelope, mark it "Free Store Lunches," and drop it in the collection basket or write a **check to The Kenmore Free Store**. Please place donated items in the basket behind the last pew. On behalf of those in need, thank you.

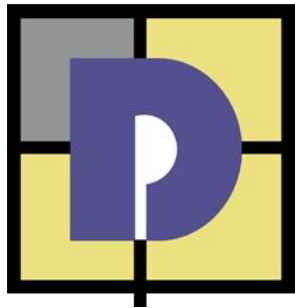
Offsite Events

St. Augustine Youth Groups: High School: "Growing Closer to Christ Together" on Sundays, 3:30-5:15 pm in Room 207 of the school. **Middle School Youth Program:** "Edge" on Wednesdays, 7-8:30 pm in Room 207 of the school. All are welcome.

Catholic Charities Counseling is available to those feeling overwhelmed during the holiday season. Call 1-(800) 860-7373 for info or to schedule an appointment.

Divorced Educational Support Group: A 9-week support group at St. Hilary Parish, 2750 W. Market St., Fairlawn. The group will meet on Thursdays beginning January 16th through March 13th, 7-9 pm and is limited to 10-12 participants. Contact St. Hilary secretary, Joan Heegan at 330-867-1055 ext. 200.

Catholics in Recovery is beginning a new book/retreat in February - a 12-step approach to the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius - a contemporary pathway to healing, deeper prayer, recovery & growth by Fr. Jim Harbaugh, S.J. Meetings are held on the 3rd Saturday of each month from 1-3 pm at St. Paul Parish, Firestone Park. To sign up, call Ellen Barber, 330-801-0463 by January 18th.



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