

*For to us a
Child is born,*

*to us a Son
is given.*

—Isaiah 9:6

Immaculate Conception of Mary

2101 17th Street, SW, Akron, Ohio 44314

330-753-8429 · www.ickenmore.org



December
Month of The
Immaculate
Conception

December 21, 2025 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 22			1 Sm 1:24-28; Lk 1:46-56	Church Decorating 6:30 pm
Tues Dec 23	John of Kanty, Priest		Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Lk 1:57-66	Free Store CLOSED
Wed Dec 24		5:00 pm Fr. Mike, Frank & Betty Smith by Melissa Keegan	2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Lk 1:67-79	NO Bingo
Thurs Dec 25	The Nativity of the Lord	10:00 am Leonard Borden by Zelei Family	Is 62:11-12; Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20	Rectory CLOSED Food Pantry CLOSED
Fri Dec 26	Stephen, The First Martyr		Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-59; Mt 10:17-22	Rectory CLOSED
Sat Dec 27	John, Apostle & Evangelist	5:00 pm Philomena Herold by Bob Rohr	1 Jn 1:1-4; Jn 20:1a, 2-8	Free Store CLOSED
Sun Dec 28	The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph	10:00 am Deceased Members of MMMM by Kathy Doerr	Sir 3:2-6, 12-14; Col 3:12-21; Mt 2:13-15, 19-23	

Sanctuary Lamp – *Special Intention*

Holy Family Candle – *For Hosier & Holtz Families*

COLLECTION REPORT

<i>Week Ending</i>	<i>December 7</i>	<i>December 14</i>
Sunday Offering	\$ 2,079.03	Due to
Daily Offering		the early
Christmas -	\$ 60.00	submission
Holy Day -	\$ 60.00	of the bulletin,
Total -	\$ 2,199.03	this collection
Weekly offertory budget -	\$ 3,200.00	report will be
(Shortfall) Overage -	\$(1,000.97)	included in
**YTD Over (short) -	\$(12,854.53)	next week's
St. Vincent de Paul -	\$ 45.00	bulletin.
Capital Improvement -	\$ 20.00	
Assessments -	\$ 200.00	
Other Gifts -	\$ 515.00	
Diocese Designated -	\$ 261.00	

****YTD has been adjusted to reflect the new fiscal year which began on 7/1/25.**

Envelopes used of 240 sent 43

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

Church Decorating: Come and help make our church beautiful for Christmas this Monday, December 22nd beginning at 6:30 pm.

Christmas Masses will be celebrated on **Christmas Eve at 5 pm** and **Christmas morning at 10 am**. Pre-Mass music will begin at 9:45 am.

Holiday hours: The rectory will be closed from 11:45 am until 2 pm this Monday, December 22nd for a staff event. It will close at noon on Christmas Eve and will be closed on Christmas Day and Friday, December 26th. There will be NO Bingo on Christmas Eve, December 24th, but Bingo will be played on December 31st. The Food Pantry will be closed on Christmas and New Year's Day.

Holy Day January 1st is the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, a Holy Day of Obligation. Masses will be celebrated on Wednesday, December 31st at 5 pm and Thursday, January 1st at 10 am.

Exposition and Adoration will be held in the church on Friday, January 2nd from 1-2 pm. Come and spend some time with Jesus. All are welcome

Snow Entry: If we get a heavy snow during the weekends, entry to the church and to Mass will be through Hitch Hall only. We do not have the personnel to remove snow effectively.

Jesus, My Home from *Living in Hope* Advent Meditations from the writings of Henri Nouwen.

The place of our true belonging is not a place made by human hands. It is fashioned for us by God, who came to pitch his tent among us, invite us to his place, and prepare a room for us in his own house. Words for “home” are often used in the Old and New Testaments. The Psalms are filled with yearning to dwell in the house of God...It is highly significant that St. John describes Jesus as the Word of God living among us (Jn 1:14), and in his farewell address, Jesus reveals himself as the new home: “Abide in me as I abide in you” (15:4). By making his home in us Jesus allows us to make our home in him. By entering into the intimacy of our innermost self he offers us the opportunity to enter into his own intimacy with God. By choosing us as *his* preferred dwelling place he invites us to choose him as *our* preferred dwelling place. This is the mystery of the Incarnation.

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHTS

It's almost time!! The Christ Child is almost here!! We have waited and prepared our hearts and homes for His arrival. Can you imagine what Mary and Joseph have been experiencing for the past 9 months? Their journey to this moment has been incredible to say the least. They find out they're going to be parents to the son of God by the power of the Holy Spirit – incredible doesn't even come close to describing this mystery of our faith. Think back to your younger days and the joy and anticipation you felt as Christmas approached. Did Santa get your letter? Would the presents you hoped for be under the tree? What was your favorite present? We all enjoy receiving presents and know that it's social convention (as Sheldon from The Bing Bang Theory would say) to exchange them at certain times of the year like birthdays and special occasions, but when someone gives us an unexpected *gift*, not an expected present and one that just takes our breath away, it is an act of love. That's what Christmas is all about. On Christmas we receive the greatest GIFT of love ever given, that of Jesus, Son of God, our Savior and Redeemer. Let's receive this gift of love and the peace, hope and light He offers with joy, gratitude, humility and open hearts.

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.

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

In His Name: Trial size toiletry items (things that will easily fit into a backpack) like toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, shampoo, floss, new combs, brushes, soap, socks etc. for the homeless who go to the Peter Maurin Center may be placed in the basket at the main doors of the church.

Free Store Help: Have a heart for those in need, like to work with friendly, faith-filled people? Stop by Tuesdays, 4 pm-7 pm or Saturdays, 9 am-noon, to check it out and join the team! Your help will be greatly appreciated.

Free Store Sack Lunch needs: What's needed:

Individually wrapped snack & cookie packages, small individual bags of chips, snack-size plastic bags and lunch-size brown paper bags (size 6 or larger). Cash donations will be used to buy cheese sticks, water & 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.

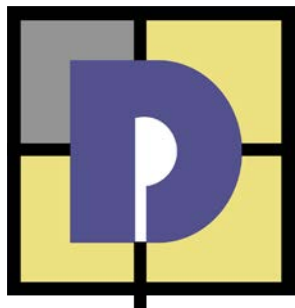
Contribution statements: If you will be asking for a copy of your 2025 contribution statements for tax purposes, please call the rectory and let Robbie know so that she can begin to compile a list of requests.

Acme Cashback: The holidays are coming up so consider purchasing items from the brands that will also help our parish with cashback rewards. Please see the fliers at the main and main side doors for information and place your receipts by the doors of the church.

Offsite Events

Retrouvaille The next Retrouvaille of Cleveland program begins with a weekend scheduled for February 13-15 at Kent State University Hotel and Conference Center. Registration ends January 3rd. Additional information can be found at www.helpourmarriage.org or call 216-509-0301.

Separated and Divorced Support Group: The Diocese of Cleveland is offering a 9-week divorce recovery group beginning January 16th through March 13th from 7-9 pm at St. Hilary Parish. The group will be limited to 10-12 participants and will focus on dealing with complex feelings and finding coping strategies. For initial inquiries, contact St. Hilary's at 330-867-1055, ext. 200.



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