

Advent
December 19 & 20, 2020 ~ Immaculate Conception Church



**May your Light, the Light of Christ within you, radiate bright hope to the whole world...
the Advent Season and everyday!**

BISHOP OF ALBANY DIOCESE:

Edward B. Scharfenberger

BISHOP EMERITUS: Howard Hubbard

PASTOR: Fr. Tom Zelker

tomzelker@gmail.com

OFFICE MANAGER: Sue Hyde

+OUR PARISH OFFICE & MAILING ADDRESS

67 Main Street

Hoosick Falls, NY 12090

PHONE: 518-686-5064

E-MAIL: immconcept@roadrunner.com

OFFICE HOURS: Monday—Friday 9:00 AM - 3:30PM

WEBSITE: www.icchoosickfalls.com

Facebook page: Immaculate Conception Hoosick Falls

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION MASS SCHEDULE:

CELEBRATED IN IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
CHURCH HALL

SATURDAY, 4 PM & SUNDAY, 9 AM

TRUSTEES: Christina Angell & Ellen Scott

FINANCE COUNCIL:

Krissy Fauler, Dave Stagnitti, Mike Sanders &
Linda Billert

PASTORAL COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Virginia Cuddihy, Mike Brewster
Jerry D'Acchille, Rick Ferrannini, Karen
Kaufman, and the two Trustees

MUSIC MINISTRY: Richard Cherry

WORSHIP AND ENVIRONMENT: Lynne Mango

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Liturgy Schedule:

Saturday, December 19 - 4PM Mass
The Downey & Finnen Families
(Requested by Family)
Joseph Ciuk
(Requested by Family)
Ann & Elmer Jandrow
(Requested by Family)

Sunday, December 20 - 9AM Mass
Sandy McCart
(Requested by Comfort & Hope Group)

Christmas Mass Schedule

Thursday, December 24:
2PM

For children everywhere.

4PM

For joy in our parish.

6PM

For those who are alone or afraid

8PM

For our church throughout the world

Friday, December 25:
9AM

For understanding among all religions

Saturday, December 26:
4PM

Remembering the homebound

Sunday, December 27:
9AM

For our families

Sanctuary Lamp:

In honor of the Risen Christ,
We Remember:
Deceased members of the
Kelly & Clarke Families



Psalm of an Emerging Emmanuel

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel,”
I pray with upraised eyes.
Drop down, O Dew of Heaven,
that God might walk and talk on earth,
might heal and feed our sin-soaked world.

O come, O Come, Emmanuel,
my prayers like searchlights
comb the starry winter skies.
Descend from the black hole of some neighboring galaxy
to green with your grace
our barren earth.

Such an Advent waiting prayer
can be a lifelong profession of patient longing,
unless I know, with all my heart,
that Emmanuel not only comes down
but also comes forth and emerges.

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel,
come forth from deep within me
with Christmas luminous beauty.
For my heart has become the sacred crib,
the birthing place of God-among-us.

Peace on earth and justice for all
will only become manifest in our lives
when enough of your sons and daughters
awaken to your divine design
that has made each of us
and emerging Emmanuel.

Christmas 2020

“And each went to register” the Gospel of Luke reminds us. As Mary and Joseph had to sign in at Bethlehem, this year all must sign in at Immaculate Conception Church for our Christmas Masses. Beginning today, please sign up so there will be enough safe seating. Sign up as normal by calling our office at 518-686-5064 or emailing at immconcept@roadrunner.com. Once we reach capacity no other reservations will be taken for that Mass. If you do not sign up you will not be able to get inside. As you know, we must follow Federal, State, and Diocesan regulations and guidelines during this epidemic and they are subject to change. Our church has suspended any obligation to be at Mass; especially if anyone is ill, weakened, or vulnerable. Please take care of yourself and other by staying home. A full sung Christmas Mass is being filmed and will be available on Immaculate Conception Facebook by 2pm December 24.

Our Christmas Mass schedule is:

Thursday December 24:

2pm

4pm

6pm

8pm

Friday December 25:

9am

Saturday December 26:

4pm

Sunday December 27:

9am

All these Masses will be the same liturgy of Christmas Mass at Midnight. Please only come to one Mass during these 4 days. If you come to one, there is no need to come to another. This will help spread out the people at each Mass and help keep us less crowded inside. These Masses are all celebrated in our Church Hall Church. Please remember your health and well being and that of all our neighbors. Isn't that what Christmas is all about anyway?

If you would like to receive ICC emails, please call the parish office at 518-686-5064 or email to: immconcept@roadrunner.com



The Holiday Cabaret is Here!

Enjoy wonderful Christmas music and readings of the season. Check it out on Immaculate Conception Facebook...what a great way to really celebrate virtually and safely. The talented lineup includes: Danielle, Gabriella, Al, Ed, Rosabel, Krissy, Maureen, Shari, Tres, Richard, Maggie, Dave, and Jake. Thanks to Deb and Aubrey for their video work.



The Giving Tree (sans l'arbre)

This year we are collecting facial masks for our neighbors in need. Please drop off any kind of mask at church or our parish office. Be safe and well.

Comfort & Hope Group

Monday, January 4 at 6:30 pm in the Church Hall kitchen area. A faith-filled support group for anyone who has experienced the death of a loved one. We are not alone in our grief, our shared stories bless us with Christ among us.

Christmas Cards of Kindness

Cheer up and connect with one of our homebound parishioners. Simply sign a Christmas card with your greeting and put it in an envelope with their first name legibly printed on the front. Drop unstamped cards off at the church or our office and we'll deliver them. Here's the list of our people... Mary, Helen, Ann, Annie, Marge, Felicia, Maria, Don, Phyllis, Margaret, Al, Reta, Ralph, Joan, Tom, Sophie, Carolyn, Lorraine, Pam, Isabella, Winnie, Peg, Rich, Jack, Gail, Sue, Rita, Pat, John and Mary. Also, if you'd like to send a card to one of our college students simply write "college" on the envelope. We'll get them to the kids.



First Day Hike
Friday, January 1, 2021
Leaving the rectory at 11am



We'll snowshoe/hike, exploring some local wild winter wonders.

We will be adventuring along the Hoosic River through hardwood forests at Featherweald Nature Preserve, County Rte. 59, West of Buskirk's Bridge.
This hike could be 2 miles.

Faith Formation News

As part of our Family based focus these are **This weeks and Next weeks** readings so you and your family can think about those lessons.

Readings for Sunday December 20

1st Reading: 2 Samuel 7: 1-5, 8b-12, 14a-16

2nd Reading: Romans 16:25-27

Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

Readings For Sunday December 27

1st Reading: Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14

2nd Reading: Colossians 3:12-21

Gospel: Luke 2:22-40

Here is this weeks YouTube video that you can share and discuss with your family. Go to YouTube and search for the following:

The Immaculate Conception Explained

Advent's Story - The Identity of Jesus

Matthew and Luke agree that Jesus' descent is to be traced genealogically through Joseph who was of the house of David. According to Jewish law, Joseph's acknowledgment of Jesus would make him the legal father of the child (a status not dependent on physical fatherhood), and so Jesus was truly a Son of David. Matthew and Luke agree that Mary conceived Jesus not through sexual relations with Joseph but by the creative power of the Holy Spirit. Thus Jesus was truly the Son of God. This dual identity, Son of David and Son of God, was a very important component in the New Testament conception of gospel or "good news."

When Paul was writing to the Roman Christians about the year A.D. 58 and assuring this community whom he had not converted that he preached the same gospel that they knew, he phrased his description of Jesus thus: "Born of the seed of David according to the flesh; designated Son of God in power according to the Holy Spirit as of resurrection from the dead" (Rom 1:3-4). This is the same twofold identity found in the two Infancy Narratives, but in Paul (who wrote earlier than Matthew and Luke) sonship through the Holy Spirit is attached to the resurrection. Elsewhere an affirmation of both divine and Davidic sonship is attached to the baptism of Jesus. For instance, in Luke's account of the baptism (3:21ff.), God declares to Jesus, "You are my beloved Son" while the Holy Spirit descends on Jesus; and Luke then gives a genealogy tracing Jesus' descent from David and the Patriarchs. In other words, as Christians reflected on Jesus' life, the great "moments" of that life (the resurrection, the baptism, and eventually the conception) were used to clarify who he was: the Messiah or anointed King of the house of David and the unique Son of God through the Holy Spirit. When and because birth stories became the vehicle of that message, they could appropriately be included in the written Gospels.

Many other essential aspects of the gospel message about the identity of Jesus are taught us by the Infancy Narratives. In both Matthew and Luke this identity is proclaimed by an angel as God's messenger. Similarly, Paul insists that he did not receive his gospel from human sources, but God "was pleased to reveal His Son" (Gal 1:12, 16). And in Matthew 16:16-17, Peter's confession of Jesus as Messiah, the Son of God, is hailed by Jesus as "not revealed by flesh and blood but by my Father in heaven." In the baptism accounts of Mark, Matthew, and Luke, God's voice speaks from heaven about His Son. Thus there was a fundamental understanding that the identity of Jesus was a divine revelation, not a human deduction.

Another common feature in the two Gospels is the insistence that the identity of Jesus was quickly shared with others. In Matthew the revelation given to Joseph is in God's plan made known to the Gentile magi. In Luke the revelation given to Mary is in God's plan made known to the Jewish shepherds. Although the cast of characters differs sharply, the evangelists are each in his own way teaching us that Christ's identity is never received to be kept a private possession. And in God's providence, there are others eager to receive it, even if those others are not the ones we might have expected.

There is a negative side also to the agreement of the two evangelists: a warning that not all will accept the gospel, especially some who should have been eager. If the magi come without hesitation to worship Jesus, guided by the star and, even more specifically, by the prophetic words of Scripture (Matt 2:2-6), the king and the chief priests and the scribes who possess the Jewish heritage and can read the Scriptures easily are quite hostile to Jesus. If Luke describes the rejoicing of the shepherds and of Simeon and Anna over the birth of "a Savior who is Christ the Lord" (2:11), there is nevertheless a solemn warning that this child is set for the fall as well as the rise of many in Israel, a sign to be contradicted, who will cause the hostile thoughts of many to be revealed (2:34-35). In other words, the Christmas crib lies under the shadow of the cross; the gospel is always a factor that produces judgment; and the joy of the "good news" has also an element of sadness because not all will believe.

In a very real way, then, the Infancy Narratives of Matthew and Luke are whole gospels. They contain the basic revelation of the full identity of Jesus and the way in which this revelation was quickly shared with others, evangelizing some, but causing rejection and hatred among others.

December 19 & 20, 2020

YOUR SACRIFICIAL OFFERINGS & ATTENDANCE

December 12 & December 13, 2020

**-No information Available -
Weekend Masses Canceled due to COVID**

WE ASK FOR YOUR PRAYERS FOR THE FOLLOWING:

Allen A. Lyle Sr., Cheryl McLaughlin, Dave Hanselman, Dawn Myers, Dorothy Roy, Dr. Marcus Martinez, Felicia Martelle, Fr. Joe Manerowski, Gary Grogan, Jeff Babson, Jesse Stevens, Judy Brownell, Judy Quackenbush, Keith Buck, Marie Slattery, Matt Waytkus, Melissa Cleary, Nancy Hathaway Mahoney, Neil Waytkus, Paulette Sukuskas, Ronda Sharpe, Stacy Rogers, and all those who are ill or hurting. Those who have been on the prayer list for quite some time will still be prayed for, but will not appear in the bulletin. If you are in need of prayer for yourself or someone else, please call Margaret O'Malley at 686-7835.



HACA Food Pantry will be open normal hours, however, they will give out pre-packaged bags at the door to one family at a time. All normal items will be included. **Additional Items Needed: Ramen noodles, oatmeal, canned dinners (spaghetti, chili, stew), pancake mix, rice/pasta boxed mixes (Rice a Roni), shampoo, toothpaste and brushes, and feminine hygiene items.**

Food Pantry Volunteers... We are looking for volunteers to help. For information and training, contact Dianne Hosterman at 686-5310.



**VOLUNTEER!
VOLUNTEER!
WE NEED YOUR HELP**

- ♦ Wednesday mornings at 10 AM: Bulletin proofreaders. **Call the office.**
- ♦ Sunday morning: Collection Counters. **Call the office.**
- ♦ Lectors (readers) at Mass: **See Gloria Shufon, or call the office,**

ELECTRONIC GIVING

Our automatic withdrawal system is working well. This may be an easy way for you to support our parish. Please contact our office for more information.