



Hancock County Catholic Church St. Columba & Immaculate Conception



Immaculate Conception

P.O. Box 219 • Hawesville, KY 42348
Phone 270-927-8419
Pastoral Council Chairperson,
Gary Elder 270-222-0215

St. Columba

P.O. Box 358 • Lewisport, KY 42351
Phone 270-295-3682
Pastoral Council Chairperson,
Jim Fallin 270-295-6460

Parish Center

240 Court Square, Hawesville, KY 42348
Office Hours M-F 8:00-3:00 pm
Fax 270-927-6783

Pastoral Team

Fr. Terry Devine, Pastor 927-9908
terry.devine@pastoral.org
Denise Long, CRE 295-3661
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Church Web Page: icschurch.org
Diocesan Web Page: owensborodiocese.org

St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store

Phone 295-3494
Meetings are 3rd Wednesday at 4:30 pm
Store hours: M-F 10-4 pm, Sat. 10-2 pm
P.O. Box 391 • 8185 Hwy 60 W • Lewisport, KY 42351
For all of Hancock County

Nationwide Mass Times

Call 1-734-794-2100 or www.masstimes.org

Opportunities for Life Hotline

Call (800) 822-5824 for help for those experiencing an untimely pregnancy.

Does Your Marriage Need Help?

Call 800-470-2230 or www.retrouvaille.org

Membership in the Parish

We give a hearty welcome to all new families moving into our Parish. Please register in the Parish Office as soon as possible. Families who plan to move from our parish community are requested to inform us.

Bulletin Articles

Deadline for submission of bulletin articles is on Monday.

Cycles of Faith

"She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus." Joseph heard these prophetic words in a dream. They were words of anticipation, of what was to come. And in a sense, they ushered in a kind of Advent for Joseph. With this divine message, Joseph began a period of holy waiting. He now knew that the Messiah was going to be coming into his own home, and he had just nine months to prepare! We can only imagine how Joseph might have spent these precious days. Most likely he did more than prepare a physical home for his soon-to-be-born Son; he must have also used these days to prepare his heart, mind, and soul for such a tremendous mission.

Today, we stand in a position not all that different from St. Joseph. We also know that the Messiah will be arriving—not just in remembrance at Christmastime, but in reality at the second coming. But unlike Joseph, we don't have an exact timeframe. We don't know when Jesus will return. We just know that we need to be ready!

During the season of Advent we are challenged to recall this fact and strive to get our hearts in order. The days are short now until Christmas, and for all we know they might be short until Christ's return as well. What remains to be done? Aside from wrapping presents and planning parties, where do we yet need to tidy up our habits to properly celebrate the real meaning of this festive season? How can we make sure that we don't get swept away in the external preparations, forgetting the work that needs to be done in the invisible silence of our souls?

God may not speak to all of us directly in our dreams, but he does speak to us clearly through his word. May we recognize today the mission he has laid before us.



Celebration of the Sacraments

Anointing of the Sick • Celebrated twice a year at the weekend Masses. Anyone who is ill, infirmed or going to surgery may request the anointing by contacting Fr. Terry.

Baptism • Baptism takes place on Sundays during Mass or following Mass. Contact Fr. Terry to set a meeting to prepare for the sacrament and set a date. Baptism for older youths and adults occurs at the Easter Vigil or before marriage.

Reconciliation • Before Mass on Saturday at 4:30 pm, after any Mass, or by appointment with Fr. Terry. Communal services during Advent and Lent. First Reconciliation is celebrated during Advent.

Confirmation • Is celebrated in the seventh and eighth grades or at the Easter Vigil. The Bishop visits every two years and we alternate between the two parishes.

Eucharist • First Eucharist is celebrated during May each year with children in the second grade.

Holy Orders • Contact Fr. Terry if you are interested in the vocations of Priesthood or religious life.

Marriage • Contact Fr. Terry at least 6 months before setting a date for marriage. Couples are to attend Engaged Encounter or the Sponsor Couple Program.

Mass attendance is mandatory for those requesting Sacraments, Fr. Terry.



From Father's Desk

The Big Day is Approaching

It's almost too hard to believe—Advent is almost over! Christmas is only a few days away. There are probably a million things going through our minds. For some; Have I left anyone off my shopping list? Will I keep my sanity since the kids are home from school? Am I ready for all my company and relatives that will be visiting over the holidays? Are the decorations okay? Should I get More? Do I dare risk my life

fighting those crazy drivers out there on the streets? Can I muster up anymore courage to compete with other folks in those department stores that look like war zones? Don't you wish sometimes things could be as simple as they were 2000 years ago at that first Christmas? No Christmas rush to worry about! Before the trees, bulbs, tinsel, there was the Star of Bethlehem. Before DVR's and tablets there was the simple gift of the Christ Child from the Heavenly Father. Today, we rejoice with Mary and Elizabeth as they both are about to celebrate NEW LIFE within themselves and for all humanity as well. In this last week of Advent, let us say "yea" as Mary did and truly conceive Jesus in our hearts so that we too may celebrate His birth this Christmas within our hearts so that we too might give Jesus to all our loved ones and friends this coming year! Have a good week! Fr. Terry

LIVE THE LITURGY

As we gather on this Fourth Sunday of Advent our anticipation for the coming of the Messiah heightens and intensifies. Our desire to connect with the source of who we are, God himself, takes on greater fervor. We anticipate the salvation Christ brings, which promises us a renewed spirit and freedom. We all long to be free. What binds us and prevents us from embracing what God desires to give? If we desire, we can taste this freedom now and then possess it fully when Christ comes!

Christmas and New Year's Mass Schedule

Everyone is invited to come to our **Christmas Eve Family Mass** at St. Columba on December 24th. Come early at 4:30 pm and sing along with our choir the traditional Christmas music to enjoy as a family. Mass will begin at 5:00 pm. For those who enjoy ringing in the Christmas Season please come to our **Midnight Mass** at Immaculate Conception. The choir will greet you with the beautiful sounds of Christmas beginning at 9:30 pm and Mass beginning at 10:00 pm. For those who were not able to be with us on Christmas Eve or for those who wish to continue to celebrate the season are welcome to attend our **Christmas Day** Mass at Immaculate Conception at 10:30 am.

Masses for the **Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God** are December 31st at 5:00 pm at St. Columba and January 1st at 8:30 am at St. Columba and 10:30 am at Immaculate Conception. May you have a Blessed and Joyous Christmas and a Happy New Year!

WHY DO CATHOLICS DO THAT?

Question: How were the prophets able to predict the coming of Jesus, the Messiah?

Answer: For the most part, the first reading for the Sundays of Advent is taken from Old Testament prophetic literature. These passages, along with most other prophetic literature, weren't intended by the prophets themselves as predictors of Jesus' birth, life, and mission; a more accurate way to understand prophetic literature is to see it as addressing social, political, and religious issues of the day. God, speaking through the prophets, calls his people to more faithful covenant living.

However, the Church teaches that, within the Old Testament, "the mystery of our salvation is present in a hidden way" ("Dei verbum," 15). The Passion and Resurrection of the Lord led to the reinterpretation of prophetic texts by his followers who understood these texts in a new light; the original texts, written at a specific time to address specific issues, were later understood to contain other meanings. The process continues to our own day as we strive to apply the Scriptures to our twenty-first-century faith reality. This is what makes the Bible a living text through which God continues to speak. Let us listen with open minds and hearts.

Mass Intentions

Tuesday, December 20

10:00 am † Dot Bratcher HV
By Ron Spalding

Wednesday, December 21

No Mass

Thursday, December 22

8:00 am † Roger Basham SC

Friday, December 23

No Mass

Saturday, December 24

Vigil Mass

5:00 pm † Anna Payne SC
By Eddie & Helen Payne

10:00 pm People of the Parish IC

Sunday, December 25

The Nativity of the Lord

10:30 am † David Sterett IC
By Jo Ann Mattingly

Readings for the Week

December 18, 2016

Sunday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24/Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24

Monday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71/Lk 1:5-25

Tuesday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24/Lk 1:26-38

Wednesday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33/Lk 1:39-45

Thursday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2/Lk 1:46-56

Friday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25/Lk 1:57-66

Saturday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25

Night: Is 9:1-6/Ps 96/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14

Next Sunday: Day: Is 52:7-10/Ps 98/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

Faith Sharing Questions

Matthew 1:18-24

What do you find most interesting in Matthew's account of the birth of Jesus?

Isaiah 7:10-14

Why do you think God sometimes communicates to us in "signs"?

Romans 1:1-7

Paul speaks about believers in Rome being "called" to belong to Christ and "called" to be holy. Do you sense a similar call in your life?

Immaculate Conception Mission Statement

As people chosen by God through our baptism, the parish of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church is called to make Christ visible in our family, community and the world. We proclaim God's word in worship, through the sacraments, in hospitality, teaching, repentance, forgiveness and service.

Our goal is that all people may come to know and share in the salvation of Jesus Christ.

Bulletin Board

Monday, December 19

3:00 pm Christmas Caroling IC

Wednesday, December 21

No Relig. Ed.

Thursday, December 22

No RCIA

Sunday, December 25

The Nativity of the Lord

The Parish Office will be closed on Thursday and Friday

No Religious Education

There will be no religious education classes Wednesday December 21 - January 4th due to Christmas Break. Classes will resume January 11th. Enjoy the extra time with your family and have a Very Merry Christmas!

Thank You for the Santa Sacks

Thank you to everyone who donated to our Santa Sacks and helped with the bagging and distribution. Your help and generosity was much appreciated.

Liturgical Roles

Sunday, December 25

St. Columba, 8:30 am

NO Mass

Immaculate Conception, 10:30 am

Eucharistic Min: Dan Hagman
Eva Bulliet, Trina Ogle

Lector: Ronna Ogle

Server: Carter Lyday, Falynd Stokes

Cross Bearer: Gracie Kennedy

Gift Bearer: Steve Lyday Family

Hospitality: Tom & Trina Ogle

Margaret Powers, Jeanie Winchell

Vocation Statue: Heath & Loretta Stokes

Children's Liturgy: Amy Severs

In Need of Special Prayer

Phyllis Emmick, Joan Peak, Stephen Emmick, Robert Bulleit, April Bolin, John & Marlene Wheatley, Georgene Poole

Homebound and Heartland Villa

Mary Hinton, Dorothy Beauchamp, Barbara Grant, Christina Hagan, Olivia Murphy, Frances Payne, Geneva Glasscock, Wilbur Jarvis, Shirley Mobley, Florence Roby, Lillie Lanham Clay Quinn, Regina Walz, Frances Storm

Please call the Parish Office to add or remove names from this bulletin prayer list.

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

The name Emmanuel means, "God is with us." This is a title we use for Jesus frequently during the Advent and Christmas season, but its impact should stay with us throughout the year. The Incarnation, God becoming human in the person of Jesus Christ, broke into our world in a profound manner that means that God is not only with us, God is us. The relationship offered to you and I by God is now more intimate and meaningful because of the birth of Jesus Christ.

God is truly with us and our goal is to be truly present to him at all times. To be prayerful is an important characteristic of an Everyday Steward. It means more than reciting prayers and setting aside ten minutes a day. Our goal is to experience the presence of God throughout the day in the ordinary and extraordinary moments of living. Offering all the actions and moments of the day to God as we awake, and then examining our day before we go to sleep at night, help lead us closer toward that goal.

When we begin to sense God's presence at all times, and we realize that being with God does not mean one of us has to be talking all the time, then we can truly attest to our reality in a quiet voice at any time, "Emmanuel, God is with us."
Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

Ski or Snowboard or Tube Paoli Peaks

Join us on the slopes at Paoli Peaks Sunday January 22, 2017. We will be taking the church bus and leave from IC Church parking lot around 11:30am after Mass. Plans are to go over to DQ for lunch and be at Paoli by 2:00pm CST. Cost to Ski or Snowboard is \$40 and Tubing is \$25 plus money for food. We should arrive back to IC Church parking lot by 8:00pm. All families and individuals are invited to attend. HS and MS youth may attend without parents but will need parental consent. Grade school children must be accompanied by parents. So that more info may be mailed to you please sign up in church, or call the office to sign up. Make up day will be Sunday January 29th.



Sunday Collections

<p>Immaculate Conception</p> <p>Weekly Goal\$3,269.00</p> <p>Collection 12-11-16\$4,953.00</p> <p>Difference over\$1,684.00</p> <p>Mass Attendance 122</p> <p>Week # 24 of 52</p> <p>Fiscal YTD Goal \$78,456</p> <p>Fiscal YTD Actual \$70,663</p> <p>IC Building Acquisition Fund</p> <p>Total Families Pledged 60</p> <p>Total Amount Pledged \$190,163</p> <p>Total Paid 12-11-16 \$173,498</p>	<p>St. Columba</p> <p>Weekly Goal\$2,308.00</p> <p>Collection 12-11-16\$2,294.00</p> <p>Difference under \$14.00</p> <p>Mass Attendance 61/83</p> <p>Week # 24 of 52</p> <p>Fiscal YTD Goal \$55,392</p> <p>Fiscal YTD Actual \$56,739</p> <p>SC Building Repair Fund</p> <p>Total Families Pledged 65</p> <p>Total Amount Pledged \$79,535</p> <p>Total Paid 12-11-16 \$74,878</p>
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St. Columba Mission Statement

We, St. Columba Parish, are a living family of God committed to deepening and sharing our faith. We immerse ourselves deeper in our baptism to reach out to those in need, call people to recognize their talents and pray for guidance to lead all people to experience the light of Christ.