

THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY PARISH



St. Basil the Great Church
Dushore, PA



St. Francis of Assisi Church
Mildred, PA



St. John Neumann Shrine
Sugar Ridge, PA



St. Francis of Assisi Chapel
Eagles Mere, PA

Second Sunday of Advent

Mailing Address - P O Box 307,
Dushore, PA 18614

Parish Office - 1 St. Francis Drive,
Mildred, PA 18632

(570) 928-8865

Email - ihmparish@ptd.net

Website - ihmdushore.com

Reverend Thomas J. Major ~ Pastor

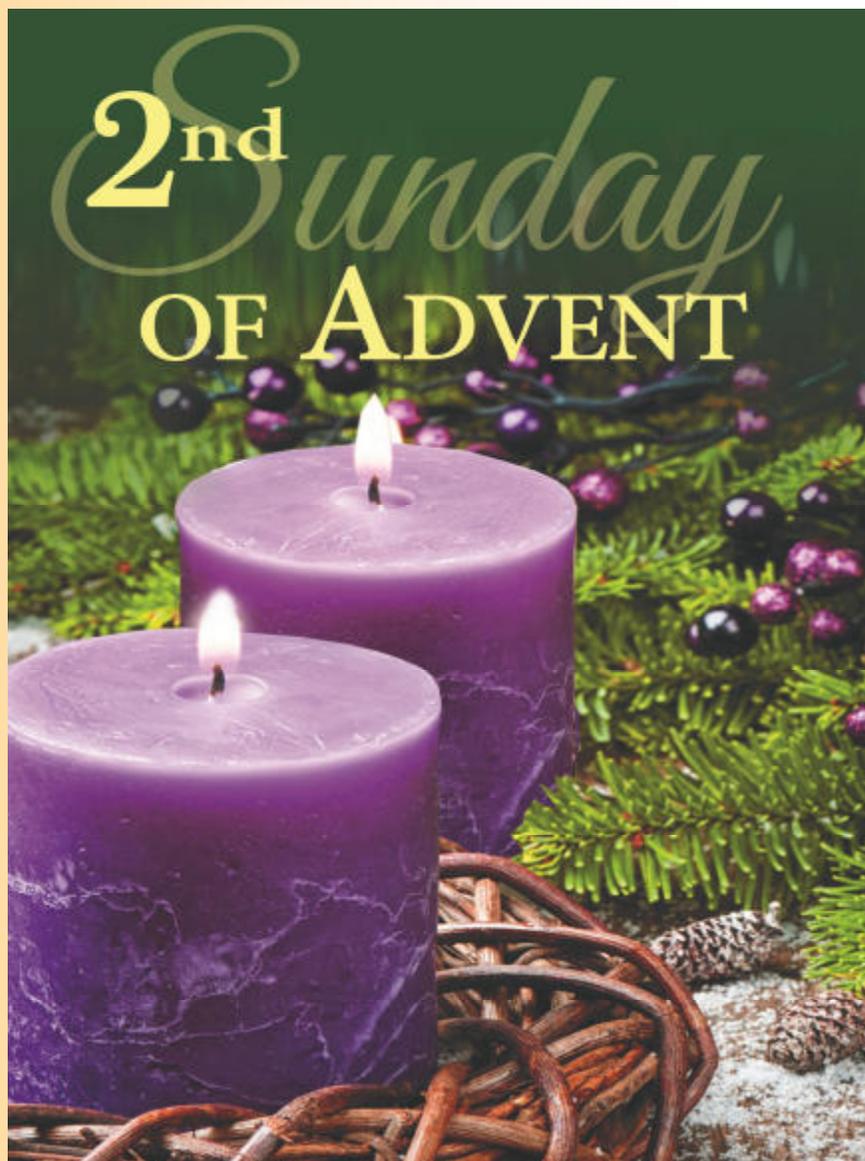
OFFICE HOURS

Monday—Friday: 9 AM-3 PM

The Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday 3:15 PM
or by appointment

St. Basil's Church will be open
during daylight hours for
people to pray individually.



December 5, 2021

FORMED

The parish has an account with Formed. Formed is a website that contains a variety of religious materials. It has books that can be downloaded, videos and documentaries, Bible studies, information on Sacraments, and much more. Parishioners can access this vast amount of information and entertainment by going to formed.org, select sign up, click sign up as a parishioner, type in Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish (make sure it is the Dushore location) underneath Find your Parish, click Next, type in your name and email address. You should then have access to the Formed website!

As a beloved member of our parish, please accept our free gift to you... Full access to hundreds of streaming movies, videos, audio books and more! Like NetFlix, but entirely Catholic, Formed.org is packed with something for all ages! It's easy to gain access. Here's how:

1. Visit <https://formed.org/signup>
 2. In the search field type "Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish" Dushore
 3. Enter your name and email, and click "Sign Up"
- That's it, you're all set to start watching!

PARISH MISSION STATEMENT:

We, the Catholic faithful of The Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, in union with our Holy Father, the Pope, and our Bishop, are called through Baptism to share in the ministry which Jesus Christ has entrusted to the One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church. As priest and lay faithful in a rural area, we utilize our energy to serve the spiritual needs of the Kingdom of God to promote a culture of life, justice, and peace to this generation and the generations that follow us.

PRAYER TO THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY

O Immaculate Heart of Mary, Heavenly beauty and splendor of the Father, you are the most valued Heavenly treasure.

New Eve, immaculate in soul, spirit and body, created of the godly seed by the Spirit of God, you are the spiritual Mother of mankind.

Pure Virgin, full of grace then and now, your whole being was raised Heavenly in full glory, to be elevated above all the hosts within the Kingdom of God.

O Heavenly Mother, Queen of Heaven and earth, I recognize the glory of your highest title, the Immaculate Heart of Mary!

Loving Mother, dispenser of endless blessings, you who continually intercede on our behalf, please present my need before your loving Son, Jesus.
(Mention your request)

O Immaculate Heart of Mary, I know that you are now presenting my need before Jesus, for you have never turned away those in dire need.

Mother dearest, I await your favorable answer, submitting myself to the Divine will of the Lord, for all glories are His for ever and ever. Amen.

FOR A CHILD IS BORN TO US, A SON IS GIVEN TO US;
UPON HIS SHOULDER DOMINION RESTS.
THEY NAME HIM WONDER-COUNSELOR, GOD-HERO,
FATHER-FOREVER, PRINCE OF PEACE.

Isiah 9:5

Reflection

The **First Reading** is from the Book of the Prophet Baruch (5:1-9). Jerusalem shall see the splendor of God's glory.

The **Responsorial Psalm** (126:1-6) A song of praise for God's great deeds.

The **Second Reading** is from the Letter of St. Paul to the Philippians (1:4-6, 8-11). Paul prays for the Philippians.

The **Gospel Reading** is from the Gospel of Luke (3:1-6). St. Ambrose shares some wisdom on our need to prepare the way and open the door for Christ. "You see that when the Word of God knocks hardest on your door, it is when his hair is wet with the dew of the night. In fact, he chooses to visit those who are in tribulation and trial, lest one of them be overwhelmed by distress. So, his head is covered with dew, with drops, when his body is laboring hard. It is important to keep watch so that when the Bridegroom comes, he is not shut out. If you are asleep and your heart is not keeping watch, he will go away without knocking; but if your heart is alert for his coming, he knocks and asks for the door to be opened to him." When life gets overwhelming and difficult and we find ourselves feeling a bit downhearted and miserable, these words can bring great comfort.

We sometimes choose to remain stuck in our uncomfortable darkness and being stuck becomes our norm. In this time of self-focus our hearts are closed to the graces and life God desires to give us. Wrapped in the robe of mourning and misery, we fail to see the mercy, justice, and love the Bridegroom wants to bring. If we take seriously the need to prepare the way for Christ and open our hearts in preparation for his visit, we can hear God's gentle voice calling us deep within. It beckons us to seek out its source and discover the inner calm and peace that can prevail over the darkness of despair. Sometimes our darkness is so dark that it may seem unsurmountable. Trusting in the spiritual friends who journey with us, and God's promise may bring a glimmer of light even when it is most difficult to keep our hearts' doors open. Sometimes, the only light in the darkness is found in trusting the faith of others both past and present.

We have to trust that God has already begun the accomplishment of good work in us and that humanity is on an incredible journey to something wonderful and awesome. God is not done. When we open the doors of our hearts, straighten the paths of our lives, and prepare the way, Jesus can come with God's simple gifts of peace, grace, and joy. Life throws a great deal at us. It is easy to get tired and confused. We have to train our hearts to keep watch, discern what is of value, and forge ahead. Not allowing ourselves to become so weighed down by things and brought out of focus is a tremendous goal to achieve this Advent season. God is knocking. Answer the door. You will see and understand life in ways you never thought possible before.

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Readings

Monday ~ St. Nicholas, Bishop
Is 35:1-10; Ps 85:9ab, 10-14; Lk 5:17-26

Tuesday ~ **St. Ambrose, Bishop, Doctor of the Church**
Is 40:1-11; Ps 96:1-3, 10ac, 11-13 see 688: Eph 3:8-12; Jn 10:11-16

Wednesday ~ **THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**
Gn 3:9-15, 20; Ps 98:1-4; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38

Thursday ~ St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin
Is 41:13-20; Ps 145:1, 9-13b; Mt 11:11-15

Friday ~ Our Lady of Loreto
Is 48:17-19; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Mt 11:16-19

Saturday ~ St. Damasus I, Pope
Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Ps 80:2ac, 3b, 15-16, 18-19; Mt 17:9a, 10-13

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
Zep 3:14-18a; (Ps) Is 12:2-6; Phil 4:4-7; Lk 3:10-18



The Star Tree is back this year in our parish! In the back of each church is a tree with star ornaments on it. Please take an ornament and

purchase an appropriate gift to match the tag, return the unwrapped gift to the back of either church with the ornament attached to it. *Rolls of wrapping paper are not necessary to provide this year! The ornaments contain ALL of the information that I have been provided with.* The Star Tree provides for the less fortunate people in our community. 'Tis the season for giving and sharing! If you have any questions, please call Anne McDonough at (570)721-0200.

PLEASE RETURN ALL STAR TREE GIFTS TO EITHER CHURCH by December 12!!

Weekly Liturgical Celebrations

Saturday, December 4

4:00 PM **Dushore** *Regina Coyle by Paulie Saxe*

Sunday, December 5

7:30 AM **Mildred** *Mass for the People*

9:30 AM **Dushore** *George Underwood by
Maureen Cosgrove*

Monday, December 6

9:00 AM **Dushore** *Jessica Soden Pedro by Susan
Soden-Brown*

Tuesday, December 7

9:00 AM **Dushore** *John Mucha by Thoma Family*

Wednesday, December 8 ~ The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Holy Day of Obligation)

9:00 AM **Mildred** *Mass for the People*

7:00 PM **Dushore** *Dane Tourscher by
Hayes & Kat Clark*

Thursday, December 9

9:00 AM **Dushore** *Edward & Frances Burke
Kelly by Edward M. Kelly*

Friday, December 10

9:00 AM **Dushore** *Mary O'Neil by Ron & Debbie
Stanton*

Saturday, December 11

4:00 PM **Dushore** *Deceased Members of Patrick
& Anita Sullivan by the Sullivan family*

Sunday, December 12

7:30 AM **Mildred** *Mass for the People*

9:30 AM **Dushore** *Cheryl Palmer by Melanie
Mingle*



Our Weekly Parish Offertory Collection

The Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish

November 20 & 21, 2021

\$3,743.00

*The bulletin was sent in before the
collection was counted. That
collection will be included in the
bulletin for December 12th.*

*Please mail your offering to
the parish office if possible.
Thank you!*

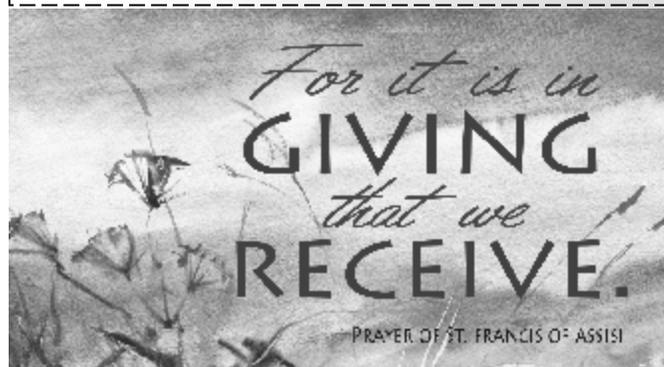
Thank you for your generosity!

**Fiscal Year (July 1, 2021 – June 30,
2022)**

**Total Offertory
\$123,248.00**

**Total Expenses
\$152,685.51**

We are bringing communion to our homebound parishioners on Thursday mornings. If you or someone you know is homebound and would like to receive communion, please call the rectory.



The Feast of the Immaculate Conception

Wednesday, December 8th, is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. This is a Holy Day of Obligation, the Patronal Feast Day of our Nation. The Mass schedule for the day is as follows:



Wednesday, December 8th
9:00 AM St. Francis of Assisi Church
7:00 PM St. Basil's Church

Thank you to everyone who helped to make the Night at the Races a success!
Your help was greatly appreciated!

Thank you for the crew at the night at the races

Bob and Doreen Hurley

Hurley Market Staff
Darrin Denmon
Zach West
Austen McGee
Martina Denmon
Bob Getz
Philip Green
Andy Bohensky
Donn & Randi Tourscher
Jim & Denise Moser
Kevin Rohe
Jay Higley
Jerry McMahan
Mark Evangelisti
Jim Souto
John Shoemaker
Dushore Beverage
Dean Homer

JANUARY CALENDAR RAFFLE TICKETS

The IHM Parish January Calendar Raffle tickets should have arrived in your mailbox, just in time to begin (or finish) your Christmas shopping! They make great stocking stuffers and are wonderful for that person on your list who's hard to buy for. Don't forget, if you buy 5 you get one free! Tickets are also available at the parish office in Mildred.

If you did not receive your calendar raffle tickets, please call the office and make sure we have your correct address!

LIGHT UP FOR CHRIST

ST. BASIL'S CHURCH

Welcome the warmth and spirit of this Christmas Season at our Christmas Tree Celebration to be held on Wednesday, December 8th after the 7 o'clock Mass.

Join us on the front lawn of Saint Basil's Church for an evening of *caroling* and refreshments to be capped off with the *blessing* and *lighting* of our beautifully decorated Christmas tree.



Christmas

Question:

With Christmas fast approaching, can you give me some practical tips to prepare myself and my family that will help us stay grounded in what this holiday is really about? With all the commercialism, it's easy to stray.

Answer:

Happy times and events bring fond memories and a renewed sense of love and kinship with others. The anticipation is half the joy of the event itself. The coming of the Lord is that kind of event that people have been looking forward to for generations with fervent hope and desire. It gave them strength and courage as they waited for the coming of the Lord.

We know that Christmas is rushed. Sales begin in August and carols blare long before the season begins. Everyone laments the commercial aspects of the season, but as Advent begins, do something to help you be more mindful of the Lord's coming. Use an Advent wreath, or enthrone the Bible prominently, or read the readings from the Bible assigned to each day. Postpone the tree and decorations until closer to Christmas. Establish new family rituals, customs and prayers that help remind everyone that we are preparing to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Fasting, daily Mass, a special celebration of reconciliation, reaching out to those alienated from family or society, and visiting the homebound manifest the love of the Christ Child and the Holy Family. Resist the temptation to rush the season. In his own time and in his own way, God will come. Our task is simply to be watchful and ready.
©LPi

Family Fun Night!

Family Fun Night will be held on Friday, December 10 at 6:30 PM in St. Basil's Hall in Dushore. There will be games for all ages and food.

Please bring your family and come for a night of fun!

All are welcome!

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

God's Personal Assistants

If you have ever planned a large-scale event, whether it's a musical performance or a religious conference, you may have dealt with someone's personal assistant. Possibly this person would be a representative of the keynote speaker or the master of ceremonies for the local bishop; perhaps it's even the staffer of a local politician or the lackey of a well-known musical act.

Personal assistants are masters of stewardship — overseeing things in their boss' absence. They prepare the way. This person's job is to get everything ready for the person in charge, so that when he or she shows up — whoever he or she is — it's smooth sailing for them to do whatever it is they need to do: sing, speak, pray, mingle, what-have-you. It's usually a big job full of little things, a gig where attention to detail is key.

God is the guest of honor in our life, the keynote speaker, the main event. And what He wants — what He needs — to do is to change our hearts. Constantly, over, and over, and over again.

We are all His personal assistants in this endeavor. We need to prepare the way of the Lord, to make straight His paths. We need to make everything ready so that when He shows up — however He shows up, whether it's in the form of a neighbor in need or a burning bush right in front of us — everything is ready for Him to do His job.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS
©LPi

**The parish office will be closed
on Wednesday, December 8.
Thank you!**

Advent Penance Services

Confessions will be heard on **Sunday, December 12th, at 4:00 PM in St. Basil's Church, Dushore.** Guest confessors will assist. Come and experience God's gentle compassion and forgiveness.

Additional Area Lenten Penance Services

St. Michael's Church, Canton

Sunday, December 5th, 2:00 PM

Sts Peter & Paul, Towanda

Sunday, December 5th, 4:00 PM

St. Mary's Church, Wyalusing

Sunday, December 12th, 2:00 PM

Epiphany, Sayre

Sunday, December 19th, 3:00 PM

The angel said to them,
"Do not be afraid; for
behold, I proclaim to you
good news of great joy that
will be for all the people."

-Luke 2:10

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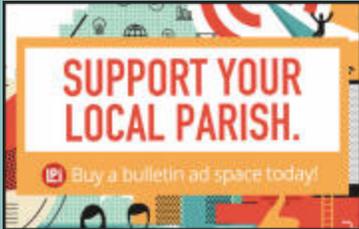
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Before I formed
you in the womb,
I knew you.

GOD

Jeremiah 1:5



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