

**Advent**  
**December 5 & 6, 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](mailto:tomzelker@gmail.com)

**OFFICE MANAGER:** Sue Hyde

**+OUR PARISH OFFICE & MAILING ADDRESS**

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

**WEBSITE:** [www.icchoosickfalls.com](http://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 5 - 4PM Mass  
**Manuel Custodio**  
(Requested by Isabel Custodio)  
**Dorothy & Tim Shea**  
(Requested by Family)  
**Sandy McCart**  
(Requested by Mike & Mary Ellen Sanders)  
**Richard Martelle**  
(Requested by Family)

Sunday, December 6 - 9AM Mass  
**Fr. Richard Broderick**  
(Requested by Friends)  
**Billy Arm**  
(Requested by Class of '79)  
**Eddie Carknard & Mary Cook**  
(Requested by Family)

Tuesday, December 8 - 12 Noon  
**Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception**  
For all our people

Saturday, December 12 - 4PM Mass  
**Ambrosino Family**  
(Requested by Family)  
**Bagnoli Family**  
(Requested by Family)  
**Levandowski Family**  
(Requested by Family)  
**Ciuk Family**  
(Requested by Family)

Sunday, December 13 - 9AM Mass  
**Catherine Trimble**  
(Requested by Dianne Harrington)  
**Sandy McCart**  
(Requested by Mike & Mary Ellen Sanders)

**Practice of Charity**

"Would that your might meet us doing right," says Isaiah in the First Reading, followed by Mark's statement in the Gospel, "May he not come suddenly and find you sleeping." Our expectation of the coming of the Lord involves responsibility on our part. "Doing" is a very specific mandate. Pope Benedict XVI wrote, "Every authentic charitable action is thus a tangible manifestation of God's love for men and women and thereby becomes a proclamation of the Gospel." The readings call for discernment and watchfulness: we should set a watch on our hearts for our lack of charity, and we need to seek God incarnate in those we feed, clothe, and tend. Spend time in prayer to discern and lack of charity in your heart. Caritas International (<https://www.caritas.org/>) aims to end poverty, promote justice, and restore human dignity. Discover if there is a way you can be involved in their mission. Begin this Sunday to build a practice of deliberate charity founded on a mindfulness that is awakened to our roll in restoring justice through our actions.

**"Just Wait"**

During every Mass, immediately after the Our Father, the priest says a short prayer known as the embolism: "Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil, graciously grant peace in our days, that, by the help of your mercy, we may be always free from sin and safe from all distress, as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ."

During Advent, we consciously "await the blessed hope and the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ" with joyful expectation. This kind of waiting is often difficult, as joy and expectation do not generally characterize our everyday experiences of waiting. Few of us are filled with hope as we sit in traffic on Route 7, wait in line buying groceries, or experience delays when traveling by plane or train. We shop online and are willing to pay for guaranteed two-day (or overnight) delivery. We assume that Wi-Fi access will be fast and omnipresent - and we grow less patient when we have to wait for websites, audio, or video to load. Amid these everyday experiences, the Advent liturgies play a crucial role in teaching and reminding us how we ought to wait with joyful expectation.

First, we do not wait alone or in isolation. We wait with others, as Christians have waited for two millennia. Msgr. Pierre Jounel notes that in early Advent - the three-week period dating back as far as the late fourth century—Catholics in Spain and Gaul together prepared for Epiphany and the celebration of baptism together with "asceticism, prayer, and more frequent assemblies." In subsequent centuries, Advent celebrations with varying scriptural, ascetic, and eschatological dimensions developed in communities throughout the Christian world. Eventually, these practices converged in what we now experience as a four-week season with a two fold emphasis, one in which we await both the Christmas feast of Christ's Incarnation and his Second Coming at the end of time.

For us, it can be easier to focus on the celebration of Jesus' birth than on his Second Coming. After all, many people have experiences of waiting expectantly for the birth of a child—and celebrating the birth of a baby is generally more appealing than envisioning that same baby having grown up and returning in glory to judge us. But the Advent liturgies insist that the two cannot be separated and that we should wait for both of them with equal confidence and equal joy. "Creator of the Stars of Night," a traditional chant hymn, reminds us that the same God who was born of the Virgin is also the majestic Judge to whom "all knees must bend, all hearts must bow." Preface I for Advent also directly connects the two comings: Christ "assumed at his first coming / the lowliness of human flesh" and, eventually, "when he comes again in glory and majesty.../ we who watch for that day / may inherit the great promise / in which now we dare to hope." This year, the Second Reading for the Second Sunday of Advent offers perhaps the season's most vivid reminder that we need not wait in fear or anxiety: even though "the heavens will pass away with a mighty roar."

Advent teaches us that we are to wait actively. The season's Sunday readings leave no room for passivity. They demand action. The readings bear the same message: we are not to wait in a state of apathy or indifference. Rather, as disciples of Christ, we must make our entire lives a time of active waiting, of undergoing continual conversion and transformation.. We must both heed and emulate the call of John the Baptist, who leapt for joy in the womb and who preached repentance to all whom he encountered. We must focus our lives on God.

Advent reminds us that we ought to model our waiting on Mary, the Holy Mother of God. For Catholics in the United States, both Marian observances during Advent are patronal feasts: the Immaculate Conception is the patroness of the United States, and Our Lady of Guadalupe is patroness of America (both continents). The Gospel reading for the Immaculate Conception—and, this year, for the Fourth Sunday of Advent — is Gabriel's announcement to Mary (Luke 1:26-38), when she affirms that she is and will be God's handmaid. That same Gospel passage is one of two options for Our Lady of Guadalupe, the other being the passage that follows it immediately (Luke 1:39-47), when Mary visits Elizabeth.

Waiting can be a time of great uncertainty, but these Gospel passages remind us that, for Mary, even that uncertainty was a time of great joy. Her song of praise, the Magnificat (Luke 1:46-55), extols God's saving action and presence throughout all time. This song of praise reflects that, for Mary, her *fiat*—her yes, her "may it be done to me according to your Word" - was truly a great act of trust. Even as she awaited the birth of her Son, she waited in joyful hope because she knew all that God had done for those who came before her: how he had humbled the mighty and fulfilled his promise to Abraham. As Christians who know that Jesus has already been born, has died, and has risen to save us, we too should be able to echo Mary's yes in our own lives, to trust in God and to wait in joyful hope.

This season of Advent, then, is a season that invites us to deeper conversion. As disciples of Christ, we learn anew what it means to wait as Christians. We light the candles on our wreaths, place the ornaments on our Jesse trees, and sing our Advent hymns. We pray, "Come quickly, King of kings," with the entire Church. We wait actively, trimming the hearth and setting the table. Finally, we "Rejoice" Rejoice!" in knowing that the promised Key of David, Rod of Jesse's Stem, and Emmanuel of the O Antiphons has come... and will come again.

## 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](mailto: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 others 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](mailto:immconcept@roadrunner.com)



## Holiday Cabaret...Virtually

Soon and very soon! Our evening (or any other part of your day) of entertainment will be available on our Facebook page Immaculate Conception Hoosick Falls. This is a beautiful and heartwarming way to be filled with the wonder of this season. Singing, music, poems, and stories will fill your home. Thanks to all who are sharing their talents for this hometown treasure.



## 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 in our parish office. Be safe and well.

## Comfort & Hope Group

Monday, December 7 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.

## Feast of the Immaculate Conception Mass

Tuesday, December 8 - 12 noon in our "Lower Church"

## Christmas Cards of Kindness

Cheer up and connect with one of our homebound parishioners. Simply sign a Christmas card with your greeting and put in an envelope with their first name legibly printed on the front. Drop unaddressed 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.

Advent...becoming a good ancestor  
for ages to come...  
pass the Light to a new generation.



## 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 6

1st Reading: Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11  
2nd Reading: 2 Peter 3:8-14  
Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

Readings For Sunday December 13

1st Reading: Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11  
2nd Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24  
Gospel: John 1:6-8, 19-28

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

**2nd Sunday of Advent (Year B)**

## God's Word Spoken to Us

The first readings for the Advent season attend to the human longing to know that God is committed, caring, and faithful to promises of redemption and healing. Isaiah speaks from the post-Exilic period, when expectations of restoration are at first high and confident (40:1-11), but after a time give way to doubts regarding God's salvific intentions (61:1-11; 63:16-19). The divine response is inspiring but frankly challenging: trust and never doubt that God remains committed to Israel (and, by extension, all of God's children). The past actions of God give evidence of God's power and faithfulness, and it is this ancient, corporate witness that must inform present hope for the future. At the same time, those who hope in God must be prepared to examine and amend their lives to place them in conformity with God's will. The Christmas season abounds with affirmations of the *euangelion* of God's fidelity and power to save (Isaiah 52:7-10), filling the world with light and bringing blessing, healing, and shalom (Numbers: 6:22-27; Isaiah 60:1-6). A new day of salvation is dawning, drawing all nations into the light of the God of Israel (Isaiah 55:1-11; 60:1-6).

The Epistles for Advent also focus on the human predicament of maintaining hope in God's promises in the face of (apparent) delay, this time of the coming of the Lord and the fulfillment of history in Christ. Paul reminds his audiences that they must persevere in this time of waiting, not giving in to old ways but remembering that they have been sanctified in Christ (1 Corinthians 1:3-9; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24). Peter has much the same message for his flock, also emphasizing that the "delay" is for their benefit, in that it allows for ongoing repentance and the struggle for holiness (2 Peter 3:8-14). In his letter to the Romans, Paul assures his mixed audience of Jews and Gentiles that God's ancient promises, now fulfilled in Christ, have always been intended to include all the nations; not only Israel but the whole world is caught up in God's care and thus the whole world is called to give praise and thanks (16:25-27). The Christmas season readings overwhelmingly emphasize, in a variety of ways, what God has done for us in Christ by making us children of God and heirs of the divine promises (Hebrews 1:1-6; Galatians 4:4-7; Ephesians 3:2-3; 1 John 5:1-9).

In Advent the Gospels feature Jesus' and John the Baptist's strongly worded warnings to avoid spiritual procrastination, assuming that there is always plenty of time to get around to repentance and reforming one's life. Repentance is the acceptance of divine forgiveness and the invitation to the new life now being offered by the One who is coming into the world (Mark 1:1-8; 13:33-37). This new thing God is about to do is announced by John and to Mary, but it is clear that this is not a "new" thing at all, but rather the culmination of a long, providentially designed plan conceived long ago in the divine heart (Luke 1:26-38). The Gospels at Christmas are all about the coming of the divine Light and Word into the world (John 1:1-18). It is an advent hidden in the mystery of divine humility, poverty, and vulnerability (Luke 2:16-21; 22-40), yet for those with the eyes of faith it is a revelation of the divine graciousness, majesty, and power (Matthew 2:1-12; Mark 1:7-11).

## December 5 & 6, 2020

### YOUR SACRIFICIAL OFFERINGS & ATTENDANCE

November 21 & November 22, 2020

Offertory:

Regular Offertory - \$3,457.00

Campaign for Human Development - \$65.00

**Total Offertory - \$3,522.00**

Attendance:

Saturday, November 21 - 57

Sunday, November 22 - 65

**Total - 122**

November 28 & November 29, 2020

Offertory:

Regular Offertory - \$2,526.54

Total Offertory - \$2,526.54

Attendance:

Saturday, November 28 - 63

Sunday, November 29 - 48

**Total - 111**

### **WE ASK FOR YOUR PRAYERS FOR THE FOLLOWING:**

Allen A. Lyle Sr., Cheryl McLaughlin, Dave Hanselman, Dawn Myers, 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.



- ♦ 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.