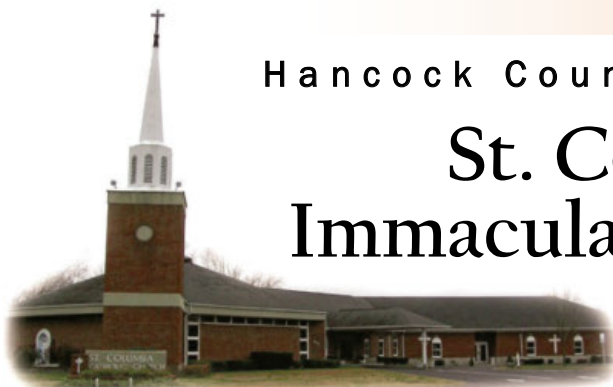


4th Sunday of Advent / December 18, 2022

Hancock County Catholic Church

St. Columba & Immaculate Conception



Immaculate Conception

P.O. Box 219 • Hawesville, KY 42348

Phone 270-927-8419

Pastoral Council Chairperson,

John Ogle..... 270-315-6946

St. Columba

P.O. Box 358 • Lewisport, KY 42351

Phone 270-295-3682

Pastoral Council Chairperson,

Justin Basham 270-922-7875

Parish Office

240 Court Square, Hawesville, KY 42348

Office Hours..... M-Th 10:00-2:00 pm

..... Friday 8:30-10:00am

Phone 270-927-8419

Fax..... 270-927-6783

Church Web Page..... icschurch.org

Diocesan Web Page..... owensborodiocese.org

Pastoral Team

Fr. Terry Devine, Pastor..... 270-860-0924

terry.devine@pastoral.org

Neena Gaynor, Adult Ministry.. 859-230-6171

neenagaynor@gmail.com

Nicole Ballard, Youth Ministry. 270-315-0688

niballard11@gmail.com

Denise Long, Office Manager 270-295-3661

icsyouth@aol.com

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 call the Parish office to register 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.

St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store

Phone 270-295-3494

Store hours: M-F 10-4 pm, Sat. 10-2 pm

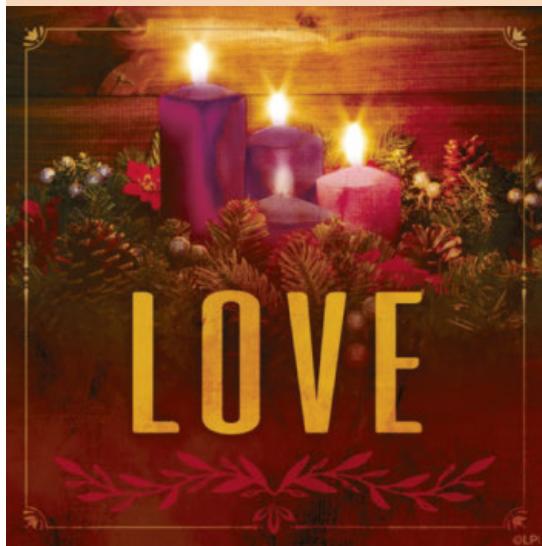
P.O. Box 391 • 8185 Hwy 60 W • Lewisport, KY 42351

GOSPEL MEDITATION

An entire town is wiped out by fire, a tornado rips through several neighborhoods, a bomb claims a maternity hospital and a sudden heart attack takes the life of a soul mate. Life is unpredictable and dramatic. Many buy into the sad illusion that the securities and familiarities we see around us today will remain forever: our homes, our friends, our spouses, our churches, and even our health. We are stunned and shaken by a sudden change, finding ourselves bewildered, mortified, and even embittered. We do not like change, especially change driven by sources beyond our control. Are there any guarantees in life? We often live as if our lives come with lifetime warranties. When they break, they can be fixed or replaced. Such is not the case. Many things are irreplaceable and unable to be fixed. During life's inevitable chaos, God says: "Do not be afraid." Seriously? How can one not be afraid when things are falling apart?

Fear is normal and it has a purpose. It is unrealistic, and somewhat unhealthy, to strive to live without any fear. Fear teaches us lessons and can be a catalyst to discovering more profound things. What we do with fear and how we understand it is critical. Fear can either cripple us or move us forward. God does not want fear to cripple us. If we look around at all that can change in our lives and consider what we might have to do, we can easily wallow in the mire of self-misery. Or we can step up to the challenge, as Mary did, and do what needs doing! We can stand tall, as did Joseph, and do the right and just thing! What gives us this courage? Faith.

God is with us. This is the focus of our Advent preparations. We need to be reminded that we are not in this alone. God not only made us and loves us, but God keeps us! In the person of Jesus Christ, God is the sign we need to persevere! Do not be afraid and do not be unbelieving! Hold fast to what God has done in giving us His only begotten Son. We do not have to anxiously attempt to control life's unpredictability. God has blessed us with the birth of His Son. Trust that He is with us and will not abandon us, even in death.



Fourth Sunday of Advent

Heavenly Father,
The whole meaning of Christmas can be explained in one little four-letter word...LOVE. You sent your gift of pure love to us that first Christmas. Love descended from heaven to be born of a virgin. Love lay in the scratchy hay of a manger in a meager barn in Bethlehem. All of your love, God, was robed in the delicate skin of a baby and wrapped in swaddling clothes. This final week of Advent helps us to reflect on the magnitude of love that was made manifest in Jesus.

We ask this through Christ, who is the Alpha and Omega.....Amen.



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 "yes" 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 might give Jesus to all our loved ones and friends this coming year!

Have a good week! Fr. Terry



Faith Sharing Question

Gospel:

In recounting the birth of Jesus, Matthew focuses on how Joseph came to terms with this miraculous event. Can you name a time when you had to discern how God is working in your life?



CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN

Question: What town was Jesus born in?

Last Week's Answer: It was required for the Roman census.

Christmas Decoration

Stick around after Mass on Wednesday, December 21st and help us decorate Immaculate Conception for Christmas. Many hands make light work!

Christmas Eve Mass Volunteers Wanted!

This year for the 5pm and 10pm Christmas Eve Masses at St. Columba and Immaculate Conception we are looking for families to participate in our mass ministries. We are looking for a lector or parent & child lector team. 2 Altar Servers, a Cross Bearer, 3 Adult Eucharist Ministers, and a Family to be Greeters/Gift Bearers. In addition, at the 10pm Christmas Eve Mass at Immaculate Conception we are looking for children to participate in our Nativity— we need a donkey, sheep, cow, camel, 4 shepherds, Joseph, and Mary. If you know that you and your family will be attending either of these masses and would like to participate please use the sign up in the back or call or text Nicole Ballard at 270-315-0688!

No Religious Education

There will be NO religious education classes Wednesday December 21 - December 28th due to Christmas Break. Classes will resume January 4th. Enjoy the extra time with your family and have a Very Merry Christmas!

Blessing Breakfast

We need your help! To celebrate Epiphany, we are going to offer a community breakfast for all those in need. Join us to help set up, cook, serve, clean up, and welcome new faces on Saturday, January 7th at Immaculate Conception Parish Hall. The event is scheduled for 8am-9am. Please, come and visit, grab breakfast, and share the love and light of Christ this Christmas season with our neighbors.



Tuesday, December 20

8:00 am † Jim Fallin SC
By George and Cheryl Gammon

Wednesday, December 21

5:30 pm † Leon Rhodes IC

Thursday, December 22 - NO Mass

Friday, December 23 - NO Mass

Saturday, December 24

5:00 pm People of the Parish SC
10:00 pm † Dec Members Quinn/
Johnson Family IC
By Noel Quinn

Sunday, December 25

10:30 am † John David Hagman IC
By Dan and Shirley Hagman

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Date December 18, 2022

Sunday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6
[7c, 10b]/Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24

Monday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a,
5-6ab, 16-17/Lk 1:5-25

Tuesday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/Lk 1:26-38

Wednesday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/
Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21/Lk 1:39-45

Thursday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5,
6-7, 8abcd/Lk 1:46-56

Friday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14/Lk 1:57-66

Saturday: Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12,
14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29/Lk 1:67-79

Next Sunday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5,
16-17, 27, 29 (2a)/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25

Night: Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13/
Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14

Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20

Day: Is 52:7-10/
Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 [3]/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

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.

THIS WEEK AT OUR PARISH

Sunday, December 18

9:30am Breakfast with Santa SC

Tuesday, December 20

8 am -7pm Adoration IC

8:30am Confessions available SC

Wednesday, December 21

6:00pm Confessions available IC

6:00pm Decorate IC Church

Thursday, December 22

7am -4pm Adoration SC

Saturday, December 24

Sunday, December 25



LITURGICAL MINISTRIES

Sunday December 25

Immaculate Conception 10:30am

Mass Coord Aimee Lyday
 Lector: Wade Gaynor
 Eucharistic Min 1)Wes Meserve
 2)Dan Hagman
 3)Mary Woodward
 Altar Servers Josey Gaynor
 Ellen Meserve
 Cross Bearer Falyn Stokes
 Greeter/Usher: Robin/Gary Elder
 Gift Bearers Robin/Gary Elder



Why Do We Do That?

Question: What is the Hispanic Advent custom of "Las Posadas"?

Answer: "Posada" is the Spanish word for inn or lodging. "Las Posadas" refers to a traditional Advent custom in preparation

for the birth of Jesus, beginning on December 16. For nine successive evenings, groups reenact the search of Mary and Joseph for shelter in Bethlehem. Two children dress as Mary and Joseph, sometimes with Mary riding on an actual donkey. They are usually accompanied by children dressed as angels and shepherds along with the Wise Men. Adults accompany them as they process to designated homes where they sing Christmas songs and request lodging. Part of the group enters the home and becomes the chorus that responds to the request for lodging. In the beginning the request is rebuffed. They move to several more homes where the ritual is repeated. Eventually, at the last home, their need is recognized, and they all enter the home where a party ensues. This is repeated in different neighborhoods and homes each of the nine days. While this custom teaches children an important aspect of the Christmas story, it also emphasizes the need for hospitality to strangers and the continual need we all have to make room for Jesus in our "posada." As we struggle to arrive at a fair and just immigration policy, it would be good to recall the fact that Mary, Joseph, and Jesus were also immigrants looking for a hospitable place to dwell.



Christmas Mass Schedule

Saturday, Dec 24 Christmas Eve

St. Columba

Prelude music at 4:30pm

Mass at 5:00pm

Immaculate Conception

Prelude music at 9:30pm

Mass at 10:00pm

If you are not able to be with us on Christmas Eve we invite you to join us on Facebook Live at 4:30pm

Sunday, Dec 25 Christmas Day

Immaculate Conception Mass at 10:30am

Please note: NO Sunday 8:30am Mass

Sunday Collections

Immaculate Conception

Weekly Goal\$3,462.00
 Collection 12-4-22\$4057.00
 Difference over \$595.00
 Mass Attendance 128

Week # 23 of 52

Fiscal YTD Goal\$79,626
 Fiscal YTD Actual\$95,853

St. Columba

Weekly Goal\$2,788.00
 Collection 12-4-22\$2816.00
 Difference over \$28.00
 Mass Attendance 62/48

Week # 23 of 52

Fiscal YTD Goal\$64,124
 Fiscal YTD Actual\$53,672

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.

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 Frank Mason, GK
 Charles Hagman, FS
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