



# IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH

December 3, 2023  
First Sunday of Advent  
316 Old Allerton Road  
Annandale, NJ 08801

WELCOME TO OUR CHURCH, A CARING AND SHARING CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

## 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday OF ADVENT



### PARISH OFFICE

***Rev. Keith M. Cervine, Pastor***

Hours: Weekdays 9:00AM to 4:00PM

Phone: (908) 735-7319;

Website: <http://iccannandale.org>

Email: [parishoffice@iccannandale.org](mailto:parishoffice@iccannandale.org)



### SCHOOL OFFICE

***Constance Fortunato, Principal***

Hours: Weekdays 7:30AM-3:30PM

Phone: (908) 735-6334;

Website: [www.icsclinton.org](http://www.icsclinton.org);

Email: [info@icsclinton.org](mailto:info@icsclinton.org)

### Parish Mission Statement

We, the parish community of Immaculate Conception Church, have as our mission to unite all of our members in God's Name to live the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We share our gifts through worship, education, fellowship, and community outreach, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit and the intercession of Mary Immaculate.



## IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH

**OUR CHURCH IS OPEN FOR VISITS TO LIGHT A CANDLE OR PRAY DAILY FROM 6:30AM - 7:00PM**

### CLERGY

Rev. Keith M. Cervine *Pastor*  
Rev. Edgar Madarang *Parochial Vicar*  
Deacon Joseph Campbell  
Deacon Michael Martini  
Deacon Mark van Duynhoven  
Deacon William Bauer *(Retired)*

### BUSINESS OFFICE STAFF

Michael Szalecki *Business Administrator*  
Laura Vitelli *Pastoral Associate*  
*Parish Advancement*  
*Cemetery Director*  
Coleen Donaher *Parish Secretary*  
Melissa Lagun *Financial Manager*  
Mary Hegarty *Administrative Assistant*

### PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM

Coleen D'Amato *Parish Catechetical Leader*  
Jennifer Senkowski *Assistant Director*  
Maryann Procopio *Administrative Assistant*

### SCHOOL STAFF

Constance Fortunato *Principal*  
Maria Casserly *Office Administration*  
Bill Bukowski *Maintenance*

### OPLATEK

A Polish Catholic Christmas Eve tradition bestowing blessings upon the family (& pets) while foreshadowing the Eucharistic meal that we share at Mass will be available in the back of Church (free-will offering).

**Wesołych Świąt!**



### ADVENT BOOK

Please take a copy of our Advent Prayer Book, this year we are using a version from The Magnificat for both Advent and Lent. Make each day of Advent guide you closer to the birth of our Lord by praying with us. Copies will be available in the back of Church.



### BANNS OF MARRIAGE

Austin Kenyon & Mary Kate Fischer



Find us on:  
**facebook**

**@ICCAnnandaleNJ**

## PARISH MINISTRIES & ORGANIZATIONS

(IF NOT LISTED AREA CODE IS 908)

### Social Concerns/Service Ministries

Altar Rosary	Lori Dwyer	812-8807
Bereavement	Diane Eisenhart &	347-3065
Ministry	Bob Zappulla	268-7360
Cub Scouts	Nora Burke Klippstein	735-9520
Food Pantry	Peggy Smith	730-7101
Girl Scouts	Toni Rice	732-570-5940
Haiti Project	Deac. Bill	610-248-7131
Employment Circle	Michael Szalecki	268-6732
Prayer Shawl	Mary Hegarty	399-8514
Pro-Life Committee	Tricia Daly	328-1268
Sanctuary Guild	Barbara Sullivan	236-6080

### Community Development

SCRIP/Gift Cards	Christine Benson	735-6334
ICS Home & School	Jessica Eisenhart	735-7319
Knights of Columbus	Brian Daly	229-2600
Men's 50+ Club	John Baka	437-0285
Leisure Club	Donna Branco	246-6756
CYO Basketball	Kim McCarron	735-7319

### Spiritual Growth Ministries

Bible Study Coord.	Marianne Tasy	730-0722
Parish Book Club	Carole Curcio	310-3886
Pre-Cana	TBD	735-7319
Men's Cornerstone	Michael Wellons	246-3241
Men's Journey	Michael Szalecki	268-6732
R.C.I.A.	Deacon Mark	735-7319
Stepping Stones	Mary Ellen Berg	892-4332
Teen Ministry	Anita Weingart	735-7319
Thurs. Scripture Shar.	Ed Reitter	268-9671
Women's Cornerstone	Kathy Meyer-Crane	303-2856

### Liturgical Ministries

Altar Servers	Fr. Edgar Madarang	735-7319
Lectors	Gail Baumann	845-283-1087
Eucharistic Minister	Ed Reitter	268-9671
Ushers/Greeters	Eric Svendsen	500-8313
Weekday Lectors	Ann Standley	287-2350
Mary Choir	Diane Eisenhart	347-3065
Spirit Alive Choir	Marylu Korkuch	236-9103
Youth Choir	Jamie Parmese	328-4116

## WELCOME HOME!

### OUR LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

**Sat. Vigil:** 4:30PM  
**Sunday:** 8:00AM, 10:00AM, Noon & 5:00PM  
**Weekdays:** Mon - Fri 7:00AM, 9:00AM  
Sat. 9:00AM  
**Confession:** Sat. 11:30 AM - 12; 3:30 - 4:00 PM  
*or by appointment*  
**Adoration:** Fri. after 9 AM Mass to 6:00 PM  
**Rosary:** Wed. at 8:30 AM  
**Miraculous Medal Novena:** Sat. after 9AM Mass

### THIS WEEK'S MASSES AND INTENTIONS

#### **Sunday, December 3 (1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent)**

8 am Jean M. Fusco (Tricia Harris Gleicher & Family)  
10 am Joseph Egan (Egan Family)  
12 pm For Our Parishioners  
5 pm Rocco Pardo (Dominick & Elizabeth Pardo)

#### **Monday, December 4**

7 am Dolores Russo (Caroline & Dave Magda)  
9 am Franz Walter (Riebling Family)

#### **Tuesday, December 5**

7 am Ken Marchinda (Karl & Carol Hammermueller)  
9 am Ints. of Chris Iazzetta (Mom & Dad)

#### **Wednesday, December 6**

7 am Matthew Nazareth (Winnie & Gene Scuteri)  
9 am Ints. of Peter & Rita Pomposello (Freitag Family)

#### **Thursday, December 7 (St. Ambrose)**

7 am Mary Jo Sturm (Winnie & Gene Scuteri)  
9 am Elizabeth & Richard Hannigan (Hannigan Family)  
7 pm For Our Parishioners

#### **Friday, December 8 - Holy Day of Obligation (Immaculate Conception of the BVM)**

7 am Roberta Donaher (Family)  
9 am Lynda Magliochetti (Husband Archie)  
12 pm Ints. of Kathy Clare (Altar Rosary Society)  
7:30pm John Gundry (Jan & Tony Shiavino)

#### **Saturday, December 9**

9 am Ints. of Mr. & Mrs. Robert Wise (Friends)  
4:30 pm Ursula Csercsevits (Green Family)

#### **Sunday, December 10 (2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent)**

8 am For Our Parishioners  
10 am Annabelle Mastrangelo (Krista)  
12 pm Seamus Fay (Shiela & Bob Parente)  
5 pm Irene Jurkowski (Altar Rosary Society)

#### **Sunday, December 3 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent** **Knights of Columbus Breakfast with St. Nicholas**

**8:00 AM** Mass (Church)  
**10:00 AM** Mass (Church)  
**12:00 PM** Mass (Church)  
**1:00 PM** Baptisms  
**5:00 PM** Mass (Church)  
**6:00 PM** BSA Ad Altare Dei (Sofa Room)

#### **Monday, December 4**

**7:00 AM** Mass (Church)  
**9:00 AM** Mass (Church)  
**9:30 AM** Sanctuary Guild; cleaning of Church

#### **Tuesday, December 5**

**7:00 AM** Mass (Church)  
**9:00 AM** Mass (Church)  
**12:30 PM** Edna Mahan Prison Ministry  
**7:00 PM** Choir Practice (Church & PH)

#### **Wednesday, December 6**

**7:00 AM** Mass (Church)  
**8:30 AM** Rosary (Church)  
**9:00 AM** Mass (Church)  
**7:00 PM** Penance Service w/ Adoration

#### **Thursday, December 7**

**7:00 AM** Mass (Church)  
**9:00 AM** School Mass (Church)  
**9:00 AM** Walking with Purpose (PH)  
**10:00 AM** Thursday Scripture (YR)  
**12:30 PM** William H. Fauver Prison Ministry  
**7:00 PM** Mass (Church)  
**8:00 PM** Tree Lighting Ceremony (outside Church)

#### **Friday, Dec 8 Feast of Immaculate Conc. Holy Day of Obligation; Office Closed**

**7:00 AM** Mass (Church)  
**9:00 AM** Mass (Church)  
**12:00 PM** Mass (Church)  
**7:30 PM** Mass (Church)

#### **Saturday, December 9**

**9:00 AM** Mass (Church)  
**9:30 AM** Miraculous Medal Novena (Church)  
**10:00 AM** Rosarian End of Year celebration  
**11:30 AM - 12 PM** Confession (Church)  
**2:00 PM** Cherub Choir (Church)  
**3:30 PM - 4 PM** Confession (Church)  
**4:30 PM** Mass (Church)  
**5:30 PM** High School Youth Group (PH)

#### **Sunday, December 10 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

**8:00 AM** Mass (Church)  
**10:00 AM** Mass (Church)  
**12:00 PM** Mass (Church)  
**2:00 PM** Christmas Concert (Church)  
**5:00 PM** Mass (Church)  
**7:00 PM** Men's CS (PH), Women's CS (UR)



# ADVENT

HOPE. LOVE. JOY. PEACE.

OLPI

## SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Our Advent Night of Penance is scheduled for **this Wednesday, December 6 at 7 PM**, at least four visiting priests will be in attendance along with Fr. Keith & Fr. Edgar. Confession will also be available at Festival of Praise (Dec 15), and our normal Saturday Confession times. Can't make it to our Penance Night? Here are some other local places and times for Confession:

St. Magdalen de Pazzi – December 3 @ 4pm

Our Lady of Lourdes – Dec 12, 7pm

St. John the Evangelist – Dec 13th, 6pm

St. Edward the Confessor – Dec 13, 7pm

St. Catherine of Siena - Dec 17, 6-7pm

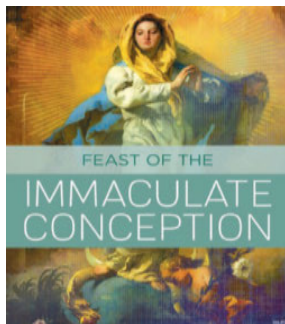
St. Bernard of Clairvaux - Dec 17, 7pm

Our Lady of Victories – Dec 18, 7pm

St. Joseph – Dec 19-21 after 7pm Mass

## DECEMBER 7 - ANNUAL TREE LIGHTING

Our Annual Christmas Tree Lighting is scheduled to take place on the eve of our feast day, **December 7** after Mass. Cookies and Hot Chocolate will be served and join our ICS students as they sing & praise God!



## HAPPY FEAST DAY!

Friday, December 8 is our Feast Day of our Parish and our Country! **It is a Holy Day of Obligation!** We will celebrate Masses at 7:00 pm on Dec 7<sup>th</sup>, and on Dec 8<sup>th</sup> 7 & 9 AM, 12 Noon & 7:30 PM.

## CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

**Christmas Eve**, Sun Dec 24: 4PM\*, 6 PM, 8PM, **Midnight**

**Christmas Day**, Mon. Dec 25: 8, 10 AM & Noon

\*4PM Mass celebrated in Church and Parish Hall

**There is no 5 PM Mass on Christmas Day**

*Please note that the 4th Sunday of Advent is December 24 and the Masses on Sunday morning are NOT Christmas Masses.*

## ADVENT FESTIVAL OF PRAISE

**A SPECIAL NIGHT OF PREPARATION & HEALING**  
**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15, 7:30 TO 9 PM**



Join us for praise and worship Eucharistic Adoration along with Confession and Prayer teams to pray with you for healing.

## TAIZÉ PRAYER SERVICE

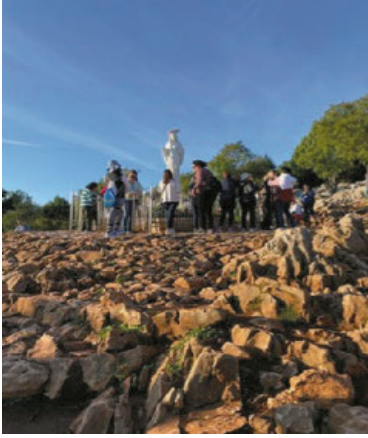
Mark your calendar for **Sunday evening, Dec 17 from 7-8pm**. Come join us for a break from the noise and stress of the pre-Christmas rush. Let the music and meditative prayer of Taizé envelop your soul and renew your spirit. Led by members of the ICC music ministry, the Taizé experience combines meditative Scripture readings, quiet sung prayer, and periodic silence to create a contemplative, peaceful environment. Experience the quiet power of this transformative musical prayer and join us for a wonderful opportunity to focus your heart & mind on the impending birth of Our Lord.



## CHRISTMAS CONCERT SOLD OUT!

Regular tickets for our annual Christmas Concert on **Dec 10<sup>th</sup> at 2 PM** have sold out, THANK YOU! You may be able to purchase restricted view seating by calling the Parish Office.

## *FR. EDGAR'S PILGRIMAGE*



Among the spiritual activities that I relish in my ministry is leading a Pilgrimage to Holy Sites, especially Marian Shrines. I lead Pilgrimages that included visits to Fatima, Lourdes, and Guadalupe. This year I organized a Pilgrimage to three Eastern European Countries, highlighted by a visit in Medjugorje in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the Shrine of the Infant Jesus of Prague in Czechia, and the Shrines of Divine Mercy and Our Lady of Czestochowa in Poland.

Personally, I found our visit to Medjugorje the most impactful. Our Lady of Peace (the title the Blessed Mother gave the Seers) continues to appear, since her first apparition began on June 24, 1981, to six children, now adults, in the town of Medjugorje (meaning "Between Hills"), while it

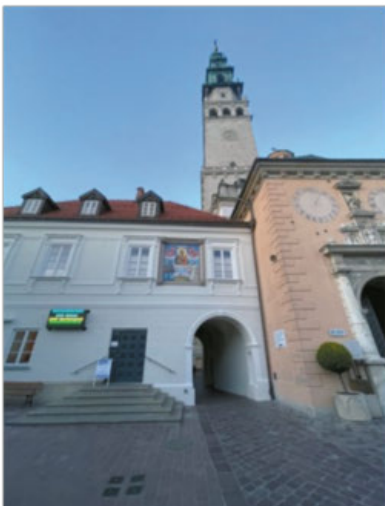
was still part of communist Yugoslavia. Although The Vatican has not officially recognized this Marian shrine, pilgrimages have been authorized to Medjugorje since 2019 under the condition that there is no assumption the events are confirmed to have a supernatural origin.



Medjugorje turned into Europe's third most important apparition site, where each year more than 1 million people visit. It has been estimated that 30 million pilgrims have come to Medjugorje since the reputed apparitions began.

If Lourdes is the Shrine associated with Healings, Fatima the Shrine for Praying, especially of the Rosary, Guadalupe for Evangelization, Medjugorje is known as the Shrine for Confessions. At the Shrine, one cannot help but feel a lot of Peace and find a lot of room to pray and reflect on God's Love and Mercy (maybe because of the kindness and piety of the locals, and also because the commercialization of the place has not taken over, or most likely because of the presence of Our Lady of Peace).

The mid-afternoon 45-minute climb of the Apparition Hill, where the Blessed Mother appeared to the children at the different areas of the Hill, though challenging because of the incline and rocky terrain, was the climax for most, if not all, of the members in our group. Pilgrims climb the hill as a sign of penance and to be closer to God. At the top, besides the picture taking that occurred, our group capped our climb by praying four decades of the Rosary. We prayed the fifth at the bottom so that we could safely navigate down the hill before sunset.

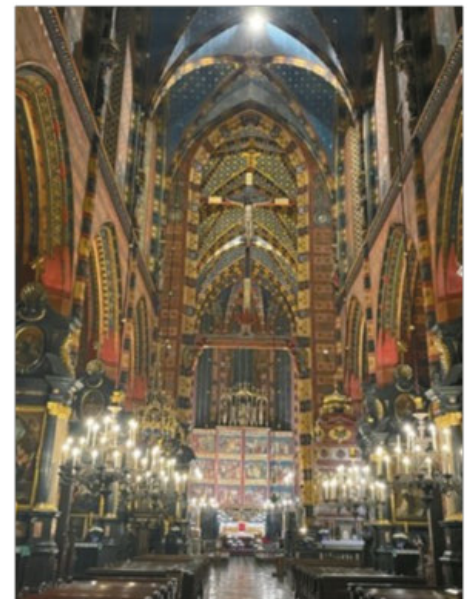


In her message to the Seers, (still children then), Our Lady gave them five stones as their weapon against their Goliath (the Devil). These stones are: Prayer with the heart (Rosary), Eucharist, Holy Bible, Fasting and Monthly Confession.

Whether we are pilgrims or not I believe we all could use these stones against our Goliaths as we prepare to celebrate the Incarnation of Our Lord.

Just like the seers who were called by the Blessed Mother, we too felt and were reminded that our journey to Medjugorje was an invitation and a call from God's mother herself.

We came out spiritually refreshed and rejuvenated after Medjugorje. Thus, for most, if not all in our group, the visits to the other Shrines in Czechia, Krakow, and Warsaw were just the icing on the cake.



~Fr. Edgar



## HAITI HOME BUILDING PROJECT

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ:

Next Weekend the First Sunday of Advent, we will begin our 18th Annual Haiti Home Building Project. Your generosity over the years on behalf of the people of Haiti has reduced the suffering and frustrations of the poor, and by doing so you have brought peace into their minds and into their hearts.

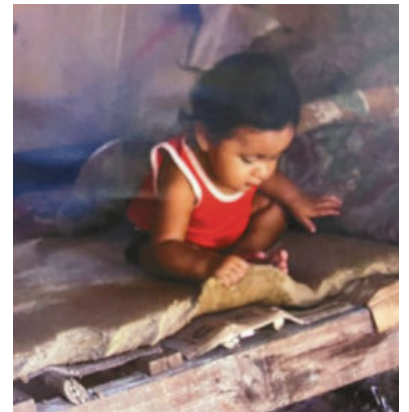
You have supported them with your selfless love and kindness. A stranger has reached out to them in their pain and has helped to heal their misery. You have remembered them from afar and you have refreshed their faith. They no longer feel invisible or forgotten by God.



For 18 years the parish community of Immaculate Conception has been supporting poor and homeless people of Haiti through the construction of clean, safe housing. To date your contributions of more than \$325,000 to our annual *Haiti Home Building Project* has enabled *Food for the Poor* to build 91 homes which are providing a safe, clean, warm place to live for more than 300 adults and children.



Additionally, because of your generosity we have purchased thousands of pounds of rice and beans, farm animals and fruit trees, school supplies, solar lamp kits, and water pumps, each of which provides an entire village with clean water for drinking, cleaning and personal hygiene. We also helped fund the construction of a new school in the town of Grand Broulage, Haiti as well as providing solar powered computers, safety lighting, and playground equipment for the children.



Beginning next weekend and continuing through to December 24, we will again be accepting your donations. If you would like to be a part of this work of Christian charity, please email Deacon Bill at [wrogerb2@msn.com](mailto:wrogerb2@msn.com) and let him know how much you can donate. Then simply make your donation at <https://membership.faithdirect.net/givenow/NJ123/50038>. You may also pay by check made payable to **Immaculate Conception** and either put it in the collection basket or drop it off at the Parish Office. In the memo line, please write **HAITI PROJECT** which will insure your donation is credited to the Haiti Project.



Thank you and may God Bless you and your family during this holiday season & always.



Your brothers in Christ,

*Fr. Keith*

Fr. Keith Cervine

Pastor

*Deacon Bill*

Deacon Bill Bauer

Project Coordinator

***"YOU ARE BEING ENRICHED IN EVERY WAY FOR ALL GENEROSITY,  
WHICH THROUGH YOU PRODUCES THANKSGIVING TO GOD" (2 COR. 9:11)***

## STEWARDSHIP AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

### WEEKLY CONTRIBUTIONS UPDATE

**Regular Offertory November 26<sup>th</sup> - \$9,151**

**Thank you for your continued support to our Parish!**



*The Sanctuary Candle for Dec. 2 – Dec. 8 is lit In Memory of LaMae Perez*



Our parish Giving Tree is up in the Narthex, please take a tag to help those in need! A great idea in which you can help two groups in one shot is by purchasing any gift cards that have been requested from the Giving Tree through out SCRIP Program! Due date for gifts is **Wed, Dec 13<sup>th</sup>**.



### LOCAL FOOD PANTRIES THANK YOU!

Thanks to your support, Immaculate Conception was able to give \$1000 in gift cards to both Open Cupboard in Clinton and the Flemington Food Pantry during the busy Thanksgiving season. Our Business Manager, Michael Szalecki, is pictured above with Jennifer Tavormina and Sue J from Open Cupboard and below with Jeannine Gorman, Kristin Stockwell and Ed Monroe of the Flemington Food Pantry. Thank you for your continued support of those in need!



### From the Pastor's Desk

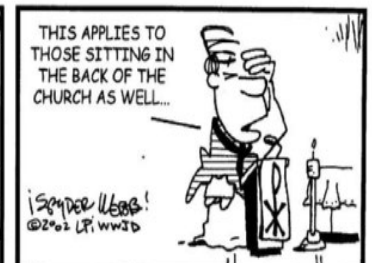
HAPPY NEW YEAR! As we begin this new liturgical year in the Church (Year B; Gospel of Mark for Sundays and Year II for weekdays for those keeping track at home), our beginning is kind of like our ending; a preparation for the second coming of our Lord. *The Universal Norms for the Liturgical Year* states "Advent has a two-fold character, for it is a time of preparation for the solemnities of Christmas, in which the First Coming of the Son of God to humanity is remembered, and likewise a time when, by remembrance of this, minds and hearts are led to look forward to Christ's Second Coming at the end of time. For these two reasons, Advent is a period of devout and expectant delight." (39) So the warning in Mark's Gospel today comes from almost the ending in chapter 13, and reminds us to stay alert and be prepared just as the last weeks in Ordinary Time explain.

Take this time of preparation seriously, it always goes faster than we expect and we would be wise to plan our time accordingly. We have so many opportunities during this Advent Season to get ourselves in the right mindset. From availing ourselves to the Sacrament of Reconciliation to enjoying the sounds of the season with our Christmas Concert, Taize Prayer Service or Festival of Praise Adoration or just enjoying some silence while shopping or choosing to help out the less fortunate through our Giving Tree or Haiti Homebuilding Project. These are all opportunities to spend time with the Lord and grow closer to Him and to our brothers and sisters in Christ.

This week especially, we are blessed as a parish to celebrate our Feast Day on December 7th and 8th. I hope you come out on the Thursday evening to witness our Tree Lighting Ceremony. I hope you have enjoyed this tradition that began last year and that we can continue to be a shining light of St. Mary's Hill to the people of Clinton and all the surrounding areas. Don't forget, the light is within you, let it shine!

Pax et bonum,  
*Fr. Keith*

1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT





## IMMACULATE CONCEPTION SCHOOL & FRIENDS

### IMMACULATE CONCEPTION SCHOOL

*Fostering Spiritual Growth, Academic Excellence, & Moral Integrity*

#### **Join us for an Open House!**

Monday, December 4th  
8:15 - 10:30 AM

For more details and  
to schedule your tour,  
visit: [icsannandale.org/visit](http://icsannandale.org/visit).



At Immaculate Conception School, our students are happy, engaged, challenged, and - above all - loved. Limited seats available for students age 2 through 8th grade. Visit our campus to discover the ICS difference!

#### **MRS. FORTUNATO AND STUDENT COUNCIL CONGRATULATE OUR BEST TURKEY ART**

We hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving and we are so thankful for our wonderful parish community!



#### **HOLIDAY GIFT CARD SHOPPING!**

Support our school through your holiday shopping by purchasing gift cards through our SCRIP Program. Your gift cards will be assembled and ready for you to pick up at the Parish Office (after 12 Noon)!

If received by 12/11 - pick up on Friday, 12/15  
**Contact [scrip@icsclinton.org](mailto:scrip@icsclinton.org) for assistance**

*Thanks to all who made our School  
Thanksgiving Feast so incredible... we  
couldn't have done it without you!*



**Fr. Edgar walked through a Baptism with our Parish Religious Education Program (PREP) students last week.**





## FOR THE KIDS & TEENS

### HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP MEETING DEC. 9TH

All High School students are welcome to join us at our next meeting on Dec. 9th in the Church Parish Hall from 5:30 PM —8:00 PM. If you would like to participate in a gift exchange, please bring a wrapped ornament. We look forward to seeing you!



The Feast of St. Nicholas is on **December 6** and tradition has that children leave their shoes out on December 5 and you might receive a tangerine, or a candy cane meant to symbolize the Bishop's staff, since St. Nicholas was a Bishop.

St. Nicholas was said to love children and have a special place for the less fortunate, providing dowries for some in need.

You are never too old for this tradition! Put your shoes out and have some fun with Jolly Old St. Nicholas and be like him caring for the less fortunate as well!

### SHARING THE GOSPEL

When you are invited to a big party, you get prepared. You take a bath. You wear your finest outfit and shoes. You take a gift to the host. God has invited you to his heavenly party. Get prepared for it. You want to be ready. You are God's gift. Give your soul a bath in God's waters of forgiveness. Dress yourself in a white robe. Wear shoes that are guided by the real GPS - God's **P**ersonal **S**oul **S**aving System.

### LIVING THE GOSPEL (MY MISSION FOR THE WEEK)

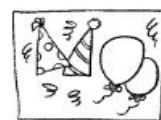
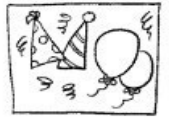
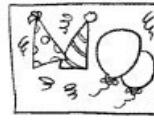
I pray to be ready when Jesus calls me into heaven.

### PRAYER

Lord, prepare me for heaven's party.

## PUZZLE

Circle the pictures that are the same & color all the pictures



## COLOR

Read this week's Gospel & color the image below





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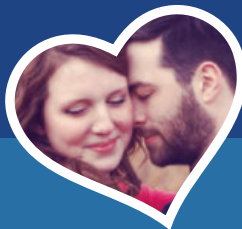
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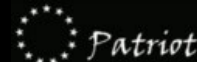
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