

Holy Child Church 240 S Main St, Mansfield, PA

WEEKEND MASSES Saturday 4:00 pm, Sunday 11:15 am

1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT December 3, 2023



Reverend Bryan B. Wright,

Pastor



Saint Mary of Częstochowa Church 144 St Mary's St, Blossburg, PA

WEEKEND MASS Sunday 9:00 am

PARISH RECTORY OFFICE HOURS Monday, Tuesday, Friday: 9:30am - 2:30pm 237 S. Main St, Mansfield, PA 16933 Phone: 570-662-3568 Fax: 570-662-2113 Email: hlychild@ptd.net Web: holychildparish.com

PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

United with the Pope, we the members of Holy Child Parish seek to be a welcoming church, which fosters spiritual development and expresses charity by living in word and deed the life of Christ. Under the leadership of the bishop, our goals are to implement effective ministries through word, worship, and the sacraments, to enhance the spiritual growth of our parish family, and to encourage, through works of love and faith, the unity of the Church.

SACRAMENTS

<u>*Baptism*</u>: Please call the Parish Office to schedule a meeting with the Pastor and to schedule the ceremony.

Reconciliation: Confessions are heard on:

Saturdays:	2:15-3:00 pm	Holy Child Church
First Fridays:	9:00-10:00 am	Holy Child Church
First Saturdays:	10:00-11:00 am	Saint Mary's Church
By appointment:	please contact the	Parish Office.

<u>Matrimony</u>: Couples should contact their Pastor at least six months before the planned wedding date.

<u>Anointing of the Sick:</u> Anointing and Holy Communion are available to the infirm and homebound. Please contact the Parish Office to arrange a visit.

<u>New Parishioners:</u> Welcome to Holy Child Parish! New parishioners are asked to register by contacting the Parish Office. Registration is a requirement for admission to our religious education programs and for reception of the Sacraments of Baptism, First Reconciliation, Confirmation, and Matrimony.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Saint Mary's: 8:30 am Sunday 11:30 am Monday & Tuesday Holy Child: 10:45 am Sunday 5:15 pm Thursday 8:00 am Friday 3:00 pm Saturday

PARISH CONTACTS

Financial Secretary: Darlene Buck 570-662-3568 Secretary: Cara Clementi 570-662-3568 Cemeteries: Cleo Warren 570-662-3568, by appointment Director of Religious Education: Darlene Buck 570-540-1332 catholic.dre.holychild@gmail.com

Good Neighbors: Tom Wierbowski 570-404-3028 Good Samaritans: Parish Office 570-662-3568

Health Ministry: Dotty Welsh 570-662-2057

Knights of Columbus, MU Council: Scott DiMarco, Grand Knight, srdimarco@hotmail.com Knights of Columbus, Blossburg Council:

Jim Weiskopff 570-662-7133

Ladies Guild: Patty Hutcheson 570-662-2034

Medical Equipment Loaning: Dotty Welsh 570-662-2057

"Spare a Prayer" Prayer Chain: Maryjane Seifried Dotty Welsh 570-549-7550 570-662-2057 seifriedmaryjane@gmail.com dhjrw@ptd.net

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults: Parish Office 662-3568 St. Mary's Hall: 570-638-2783; Holy Child Hall: 570-662-9996



~ prior to all Masses ~

MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 2 9:30 am, First Saturday, St. M VI 4:00 pm, Holy Child: † Patrick	(by Marilyn & Gene Kurzejewski) GIL, FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT		
Sunday, December 3 9:00 am, St. Mary's: † Jim and 11:15 am, Holy Child: † Parisl	(by Jane Mahonski)		
<u>Monday, December 4</u> 12:10 pm, St. Mary's: † Nicko	Saint John Damascene, Priest, Doctor of the Church Iai Derkach (by The Family)		
<u>Tuesday, December 5</u> 12:10 pm, St. Mary's: † Joe V	Advent Weekday alabovicz (by The Family)		
<u>Wednesday, December 6</u> No Mass	Saint Nicholas, Bishop		
Thursday, December 7St Ambrose, Bishop, Doctor of the ChurchVIGIL: IMMACULATE CONCEPTION (HOLY DAY)6:00 pm, Holy Child: † Sarah Snyder (by Scott & Dawn Egan)			
BLESSED VIRGIN MAR	ACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE RY (HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION) rrry Cunningham (by Linda Cloos)		
	<i>int Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin</i> L, Second Sunday of Advent ioners		
Sunday, December 10 9:00 am, St. Mary's: † Anna T 11:15 am, Holy Child: † Carol			
Saturdays—2:15 pm- First Fridays—9:00 am	Reconciliation: —Holy Child Church M—Holy Child Church am—Saint Mary's Church		

The Sanctuary Light burns to remind us of the Real Presence of Christ reserved in the tabernacle.

Sanctuary Light Intentions, Week of November 19–25:

Saint Mary's: † Frank Frederick (by the Family) Holy Child: † Parishioners

PARISH OFFERINGS RECEIVED NOV 20-NOV 26, 2023

Sunday Envelopes	\$2,844.00
Loose	700.00
Fuel	225.00
Holy Days	5.00
Thanksgiving	695.00
Advent	17.00
Christmas	47.00
Donation	<u>500.00</u>
Total:	<u>5,033.00</u>
Campaign for Human Development	260.00
Care & Education of Priests	26.00
Thank you for your ongoing sup	port!

PRAYER LIST

PLEASE PRAY...We pray, always, for deceased parishioners, family, friends, and benefactors. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace. For those serving our country: Lord, hold our troops in your loving hands. Protect them as they protect us. Bless them and their families in our time of need. For those who need special prayers:

- * Charles Chamberlain
- * Christopher Mortensen * Richard Niemczyk

* Ethel Sandstrom

* Kenneth Simpson

* Lori Sherant

- * Richard Faber
- * Bernice Frederick
- * Catherine Gallagher
- * Tom MacBlane
- * Tony Lupkowski
- * Yolanda Tacka * Jane Mahonski
- We ask this in the name of Jesus our Lord and Savior. Amen.



To request prayer for someone due to sudden illness, upcoming surgery, hospital stay, or those experiencing a hardship, please contact the Parish Office. To respect our parishioners' privacy, please ask and specify if their names are to be put in the bulletin, added to the prayer chain, or both.

"Spare a Prayer" Prayer Chain

Contact: Maryjane Seifried at seifriedmaryjane@gmail.com or 549-7550 or Dotty Welsh at dhjrw@ptd.net or 662-2057.

Our Lord is always listening.

VISITS TO THE HOMEBOUND

If you or someone you know would like to receive Holy Communion, a pastoral visit, or a mailed bulletin, please contact the Parish Office.



Would you or someone you know

enjoy a friendly visit, a partner to play cards or games with, someone to read to them, or simply keep company? As an outreach of Marian Ministries, Mary Hohman has offered to visit local residents and nursing homes, to spend time with people who may feel alone. Contact Mary at (717) 203-9090.

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	Scripture Readings		
Sun	Is 63:16-17,19; 64:2-7 Ps 80:2-3,15-16,18-19		
12/3	1 Cor 1:3-9 Mk 13:33-37		
Mon 12/4	Is 2:1-5 Ps122:1-9 Mt 8:5-11		
Tue 12/5	Is 11:1-10 Ps 72:1-2,7-8,12-13,17 Lk 10:21-24		
Wed 12/6	Is 25:6-10a Ps 23:1-6 Mt 15:29-37		
Thu	Is 26:1-6 Ps 118:1,8-9,19-21,25-27a		
12/7	Mt 7:21,24-27		
Fri	Gn 3:9-15,20 Ps 98:1-4 Eph 1:3-6,11-12		
12/8	Lk 1:26-38		
Sat	Is 30:19-21,23-26 Ps 147:1-6 Mt 9:35-10:1,5a,6-8		
12/9			
Sun	Is 40:1-5,9-11 Ps 85:9-14 2 Pt 3:8-14		
12/10	/10 Mk 1:1-8		

MARK YOUR CALENDAR



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- Dec 3: Family Advent Wreath-Making, 10am, Holy Child Hall
- Bible Study: End Times (part 8/8), 12:30 HC Hall Dec 3:
- Knights of Columbus, 6:30 pm, Holy Child Hall Dec 3:
- Dec 6: Health Ministry, 10:30 am, Holy Child Hall
- Dec 10: Our Lady of Guadalupe, 12:30 pm, Holy Child Hall
- Dec 12: Ladies Guild Dinner, 6:00 pm, Lambs Creek Inn
- Dec 17: Lectio: Christmas, after 11:15 Mass, Holy Child Hall
- Dec 21: Knights of Columbus, 6:00 pm, Holy Child
- Dec 23-24: 4th Sunday of Advent; regular weekend Masses
- Dec 24: Christmas Eve Mass 4pm Holy Child
- Dec 25: Christmas Mass 9am St. Mary's, 11:15am Holy Child
- Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God; Masses: Jan 1:
- 12:10pm St. Mary's, 6:00pm Holy Child Jan 3: Health Ministry, 10:30 am, Holy Child Hall
- Jan 7: Lectio: Christmas, after 11:15 Mass, Holy Child Hall

BIBLE STUDY: JESUS & THE END TIMES: A CATHOLIC VIEW OF THE LAST DAYS

Join us this Sunday, December 3rd following the 11:15am Mass for refreshments and the final presentation of Brant Pitre's Jesus and the End Times.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION: LA VIRGEN DE GUADALUPE



If you've never heard (or don't recall) the amazing story of Our Lady of Guadalupe, you might've seen her incredible image. The details behind this apparition by Our Lady are even more beautiful and miraculous. Please join us for refreshments and a special presentation by Cathy Asbury on Sunday, December 10th, following the 11:15 Mass. You will gain a new appreciation for Our Lady and her gifts to us at Guadalupe... just in time for her Feast Day (12/12)!



Giving Trees are in both churches. Please return unwrapped gifts by the dates listed on the tags. Thank you for your generosity to local children & adults in need.

Spiritual Adoption of the Preborn-Month Four

Your little baby now weighs 6 ounces. She has fingernails and eyelashes. She has her own unique fingerprints which will remain unchanged throughout her life. Her tastebuds are working. Her sense of hearing is present at 14 weeks. There are no major bodily developments anymore. Your spiritually

adopted baby is already well-formed, internally and externally. All she needs now is time to gain weight and grow strong.

"Dear Lord, thank you for creating me with every little feature and characteristic that makes me special. You are the potter, we are the clay, the work of Your hand."

Please keep praying for me & my mother.





Masses and in the Parish Office through December.

Only two hundred (200) tickets will be sold!

GET YOURS BEFORE THEY'RE GONE!

Thank you for supporting this fun, important fundraiser.

It will generate \$5,000 for our Parish!

Small Games of Chance License: 2304



Ladies Guild Christmas Dinner

Tuesday, December 12th 6:00 pm at Lambs Creek Inn Call Patty at 570-662-2034

MATTHEW 25 (BLOSSBURG UMC) FOOD PANTRY **NEEDS YOUR MONETARY DONATIONS**

The Matthew 25 Pantry provides Christmas dinners for local families. Each family gets a meat voucher to be used at Bloss Holiday Market, non-perishables, juice, milk, eggs, frozen foods, fresh produce, & baked goods.

Checks can be made to the Matthew 25

Food Pantry and placed in our Parish collec-





tion basket or Parish Office.

PARISH HEALTH MINISTRY

'Tis the season to be scammed?! This time of year sees a surge in impersonation scams. Stay safe by learning to identify and avoid them. Scammer tactics can make them hard to detect; they use phone calls, emails, and

text messages. They may use AI to pretend to be someone you trust to get sensitive information such as your social security, banking, or credit card numbers. They may threaten to suspend your account to pressure you into providing personal information such as payment or account login credentials. DO NOT click on any links or provide any information without verifying the source. Banks and credit card companies do not behave this way. So, enjoy the holidays, but just be aware.

Attention, All High School Young Women: Capuchin Sisters of Nazareth Group Meetings

The Capuchin Sisters of Nazareth invite all High School young women (grades 9-12) to their Nazareth Group meetings from 11:00 am - 4:30 pm on the following Saturdays:

2024: January 20th, April 20th, June 1st

Encounter deep prayer, enriching talks & discussions, faith-

based friends, nature walks, and more! Two locations available: Mother of God Convent (Tunkhannock; Sister Angela 570-836-2737) and Mother of the Eucharist Convent (Williamsport; Sister Clare 570-745-3334). Please RSVP with the Sisters before each meeting.



Adoration in Holy Child Parish

Holy Child Parish offers Adoration before all Masses and for an hour following Masses for First Fridays and First Saturdays. During these times, we can silently...

- Adore Christ in the Blessed Sacrament.
- Pray the Rosary, Chaplet of Divine Mercy, or other prayer(s).
- Read Sacred Scripture.
- Pray the Liturgy of the Hours.

Because there are always other people present during Adoration in our Parish, please remain silent. If necessary, whisper a few words. For a conversation, leave the Sanctuary and wait for the door to fully close before quietly saying what you need to say. Remember that the narthex/vestibule is open to the choir loft, which is open to the Sanctuary. Maintaining silence in the Sanctuary shows reverence to the Blessed Sacrament and respect for the prayer time of others. Thank you.

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Sponsored by the Diocesan Offices for Parish Life and Vocations

GUEST SPEAKER: DR. CHRIS HAW, UNIVERSITY OF SCRANTON



Thursday, December 7th

7:00 PM

St. Maria Goretti Church 42 Redwood Drive - Laflin

SPEAKER, RECONCILIATION, AND SOCIAL.

LIVE MUSIC BY JOEL KANKIEWICZ



Little Blue Books—Advent Devotionals

Available in both church vestibules. Please take one and pray with it! Free from our Parish Health Ministry.



WEEK OF DECEMBER 3, 2023

WHAT IS THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION?



Mary's title of the Immaculate Conception... this dogma of the Catholic faith, promulgated in 1854 by Pope Pius IX, speaks of Mary's conception and what it means to the Church.

ST. NICHOLAS DAY | CATHOLIC ALL YEAR AT HOME



Kendra Tierney shares her favorite recipes & traditions for celebrating the feast of St. Nicholas (a.k.a. Santa!). Mulled wine, cider, speculaas cookies, and deep-fried Dutch meatballs.

Advent: Word Studies | The Bible Project



"Peace" is a very common word in English that means different things to different people. It's also an important word in the Bible that refers not only to the absence of conflict but also to the presence of something else.

Our parish has a FORMED subscription! To set up your free account, visit <u>signup.formed.org</u> and use zip code 16933 to search for and select our parish.

> HOSTED BY THE DIOCESE OF SCRANTON VOCATIONS OFFICE



YOUNG ADULT DISCERNMENT RETREAT DECEMBER 8-9, 2023 HOLY FAMILY RETREAT CENTER 151 OLD NEWPORT ST. NANTICOKE, PA 18634

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8TH | SOLEMNITY OF THE Immaculate Conception (Holy Day of Obligation)

The Immaculate Conception is a Catholic dogma that states that Mary, whose conception was brought about the normal way, was conceived without original sin or its stain. That's what "immaculate" means: without stain.

It's important to understand what the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception is and what it is not. Some people mistakenly think that the term refers to Christ's conception in Mary's womb without the intervention of a human father.

Others think the Immaculate Conception means Mary was conceived "by the power of the Holy Spirit," in the way Jesus was, but that, too, is incorrect.

The essence of original sin consists in the deprivation of sanctifying grace, and its stain is a corrupt nature. Mary was preserved from these defects by God's grace; from the first instant of her existence she was in the state of sanctifying grace and was free from the corrupt nature original sin brings.

When discussing the Immaculate Conception, an implicit reference may be found in the angel Gabriel's greeting to Mary: "Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you" (Luke 1:28).

The phrase "full of grace" is a translation of the Greek word *kecharitomene*. It therefore expresses a characteristic quality of Mary. The grace given to Mary is at once permanent and of a unique kind. *Kecharitomene* is a perfect passive participle of *charitoo*, meaning "to fill or endow with grace."

Since this term is in the perfect tense, it indicates that Mary was graced in the past but with continuing effects in the present. So, the grace Mary enjoyed was not a result of the angel's visit. In fact, Catholics hold, it extended over the whole of her life, from conception onward. She was in a state of sanctifying grace from the first moment of her existence.

Protestants' Objections

Protestants' chief reason for objecting to the Immaculate Conception and Mary's consequent sinlessness is that we are told that "all have sinned" (Rom. 3:23). Besides, they say, Mary said her "spirit rejoices in God my Savior" (Luke 1:47), and only a sinner needs a Savior.

Let's take the second citation first. Mary, too, required a Savior. Like all other descendants of Adam, she was subject to the necessity of contracting original sin. But by a special intervention of God, undertaken at the instant she was conceived, she was preserved from the stain of original sin and its consequences. She was therefore redeemed by the grace of Christ, but in a special way—by anticipation.

Consider an analogy: Suppose a man falls into a deep pit, and someone reaches down to pull him out. The man has been "saved" from the pit. Now imagine a woman walking along, and she too is about to topple into the pit, but at the very moment that she is to fall in, someone holds her back and prevents her. She too has been saved from the pit, but in an even better way: She was not simply taken out of the pit, she was prevented from getting stained by the mud in the first place.

This is the illustration Christians have used for a thousand years to explain how Mary was saved by Christ. *(continued above)*

...CONTINUED...

By receiving Christ's grace at her conception, she had his grace applied to her before she was able to become mired in original sin and its stain.

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* states that she was "redeemed in a more exalted fashion, by reason of the merits of her Son" (CCC 492). She has more reason to call God her Savior than we do, because he saved her in an even more glorious manner!

But what about Romans 3:23, "all have sinned"? Have all people committed actual sins? Consider a child below the age of reason. By definition he can't sin, since sinning requires the ability to reason and the ability to intend to sin.

Paul's comment seems to have one of two meanings. It might be that it refers not to absolutely everyone, but just to the mass of mankind (which means young children and other special cases, like Jesus and Mary, would be excluded without having to be singled out).

If not that, then it would mean that everyone, without exception, is subject to original sin, which is true for a young child, for the unborn, even for Mary—but she, though due to be subject to it, was preserved by God from it and its stain.

The objection is also raised that if Mary were without sin, she would be equal to God. In the beginning, God created Adam, Eve, and the angels without sin, but none were equal to God. Most of the angels never sinned, and all souls in heaven are without sin. Sinning does not make one human.

The doctrine of the Immaculate Conception was officially defined by Pope Pius IX in 1854.

When Protestants claim that the doctrine was "invented" at that time, they misunderstand both the history of dogmas and what prompts the Church to issue, from time to time, definitive pronouncements regarding faith or morals. They are under the impression that no doctrine is believed until the pope or an ecumenical council issues a formal statement about it.

Actually, doctrines are defined formally only when there is a

controversy that needs to be cleared up or when the magisterium (the Church in its office as teacher; see Matt. 28:18–20; 1 Tim. 3:15, 4:11) thinks the faithful can be helped by particular emphasis being drawn to some alreadyexisting belief.

The definition of the Immaculate Conception was prompted by the latter motive: Pope Pius IX, who was highly devoted to the Blessed Virgin, hoped the definition would inspire others in their devotion to her.

catholic.com/tract/immaculateconception-and-assumption



