

Holy Child Church 240 S Main St, Mansfield, PA

EST. 1953



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

2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT December 8, 2024



Reverend Bryan B. Wright

PARISH OFFICE Mon, Tue, Fri: 9:30am - 2:30pm 237 S. Main St, Mansfield, PA 16933 Phone: 570-662-3568 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.

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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>Holy Communion</u>: Those preparing to receive Holy Communion for the first time are asked to call 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> For the infirm & 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 required for our religious education programs and for the Sacraments of Baptism, First Reconciliation, Confirmation, and Matrimony.

WEEKEND MASSES Saturday 4:00 PM Holy Child Sunday 9:00 AM Saint Mary's Holy Child Sunday 11:15 AM **Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament** Holy Child Saturday 3:00 PM Saint Mary's Sunday 8:30 AM Sunday 10:45 AM Holy Child Saint Mary's Monday 11:30 AM Saint Mary's Tuesday 11:30 AM Thursday 5:15 PM Holy Child Friday 8:00 AM Holy Child **DEVOTIONAL PRAYERS** Monday 12:00 PM Saint Mary's The Angelus Monday 12:45 PM Saint Mary's Miraculous Medal Saint Mary's The Angelus Tuesday 12:00 PM 12:45 PM Saint Mary's Tuesday Saint Jude Holy Child Thursday 6:00 PM The Angelus **PARISH CONTACTS** Financial Secretary: Darlene Buck 570-662-3568 Secretary: Cara Clementi 570-662-3568 Director of Religious Education: Darlene Buck 570-540-1332 Good Samaritans: Parish Office, 570-662-3637 Health Ministry & Medical Equipment Loaning: Dotty Welsh 570-662-2057 Knights of Columbus: Scott DiMarco; srdimarco@hotmail.com Ladies Guild: Patty Hutcheson 570-662-2034

St. Mary's Hall: 638-2783 Holy Child Hall: 662-9996

Horation of the Blessed Sacrament ~ prior to all Masses ~



Mass Schedule & Intentions

Saturday, December 7First Saturday9:30 am, St. Mary's: † Jerry & Dan Kostovick (by The Family)VIGIL, SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT4:00 pm, Holy Child: † Jim & Betty Rieppel
(by Rosemary, Adele, & Marcia, & Families)Sunday, December 8SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT9:00 am, St Mary's: † Anna Tokarz (by The Family)11:15 am, Holy Child: Parishioners

Monday, December 9 12:10 pm, St. Mary's: † Elaine Cecere (by Jeff & Kelly Farrell)

Tuesday, December 10Advent Weekday; Our Lady of Loreto12:10 pm, St. Mary's: † Vincent & Dorothy Smichowski
(by Paula Smichowski Tacka)

Wednesday, December 11 Advent Weekday; St. Damasus I, Pope No Mass

Thursday, December 12Our Lady of Guadalupe6:00 pm, Holy Child: in honor of Martin Anthony Ostapowicz
(by Nicole Ostapowicz)

Friday, December 13St. Lucy, Virgin, Martyr8:30 am, Holy Child: † Alice Abrams
(by Kevin Abrams & Mary Simmons)

Saturday, December 14 **VIGIL, THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT** 4:00 pm, Holy Child: † Carolyn Jaquish Bond

(by Nancy & Heather)

Sunday, December 15THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT9:00 am, St Mary's: † Matthew Davison (by Doris Partyka)11:15 am, Holy Child: Parishioners



SANCTUARY CANDLE INTENTIONS: THIS WEEK Holy Child: † Carolyn Jaquish Bond (by Nancy & Heather)

Saint Mary's: Parishioners The Sanctuary Candle burns to remind us of the Real Presence of Christ reserved in the tabernacle.



SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION SATURDAYS—2:15 PM—HOLY CHILD CHURCH

First Fridays—9:00 am—Holy Child Church First Saturdays—10:00 am—St. Mary's Church ~Or By Appointment~

PARISH OFFERINGS RECEIVED 11/25-12/1. THANK YOU! Sunday Envelopes \$2,880.00 Loose 1.085.00 Thanksgiving 617.00 Advent 363.00 Christmas Flowers 512.00\$5,457.00 <u>Total:</u> Care & Education of Priests 231.00 Thank you for your generosity!

DIOCESAN ANNUAL CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL

28% of Holy Child parishioners have made gifts amounting to 69% of our goal. Please consider giving what you can to support our extended family in the Diocese of Scranton (QR code below). If you've already made a gift, thank you!

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| Donate now at AnnualAppeal.org, (570) 207-2250 or click this QR code | |
|---|--|
| CIICK THIS QR CODE | |

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. Bless those who need special prayers:

Judi Bonk-Guy • Kirk Euson • Richard Faber • Bernice Frederick • Catherine Gallagher • Lance Hall • Ann King • Tony Lupkowski • Tom MacBlane • Jane Mahonski • Christopher Mortensen • Terri Nash • Richard Niemczyk • Sandy Parker • Ethel Sandstrom • Lori Sherant • Kenneth Simpson • Yolanda Tacka • Jack Watson • Ron Yanuzzi

We ask this in the name of Jesus, our Lord and Savior. Amen.



To request prayer for someone due to illness, surgery, hardship, or other reason, please contact the Parish Office. To respect 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.

The 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.

| I | PRO-LIFE RESOURCES | Dæ |
|---|---|---|
| | Heart of Tioga Crisis Pregnancy Center: 570-948-2020 | |
| i | Project Rachel Helpline: 888-456- HOPE for help after abortion | <u>heartoftioga@gmail.com</u> 24/7 ONLINE NURSE CHAT |
| i | HOPE for help after abortion Abortion Pill Reversal 24/7 H | |
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| Scripture Readings | | | | |
|--------------------|---|--|--|--|
| Sun | Bar 5:1-9 Ps 126:1-6 Phil 1:4-6,8-11 | | | |
| 12/8 | Lk 3:1-6 | | | |
| Mon | Gn 3:9-15,20 Ps 98:1-4 Eph 1:3-6,11-12 | | | |
| 12/9 | Lk 1:26-38 | | | |
| Tue | Is 40:1-11 Ps 96:1-3,10ac,11-13 Mt 18:12-14 | | | |
| 12/10 | , , , | | | |
| Wed | Is 40:25-31 Ps 103:1-4,8,10 Mt 11:28-30 | | | |
| 12/11 | 15 10.25 51 15 105.1 1,0,10 100 11.20 50 | | | |
| Thu | Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a; 10ab | | | |
| 12/12 | (Ps) Jdt 13:18b-19 Lk 1:26-38 or 39-47 or 707-712 | | | |
| Fri | Is 48:17-19 Ps 1:1-4,6 Mt 11:16-19 | | | |
| 12/13 | 15 40.17-19 1 S 1.1-4,0 Wit 11.10-19 | | | |
| Sat | Sir 48:1-4,9-11 Ps 80:2ac,3b,15-16,18-19 | | | |
| 12/14 | Mt 17:9a,10-13 | | | |
| Sun | Zep 3:14-18a (Ps) Is 12:2-6 Phil 4:4-7 | | | |
| 12/15 | Lk 3:10-18 | | | |



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.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Dec 8: Lectio: Jewish Roots of Advent (3) after 11:15 Mass Dec 10: Ladies Guild Dinner, 5pm, Corey Creek Country Club Dec 12: Dedication of Marian Ministries to OLG, 6pm, Holy Child Dec 15: Lectio: Jewish Roots of Advent (4) after 11:15 Mass Dec 22: Lectio: Jewish Roots of Advent (5) after 11:15 Mass Dec 22: Advent Penance Service, 4pm, Holy Child Dec 29: Lectio: Jewish Roots of Advent (6) after 11:15 Mass Jan 5: KofC Meeting; 6:30 pm, Holy Child Hall Health Ministry, 10:30 am, Holy Child Hall Jan 8: Jan 9: Pastoral Council starting with 6pm Mass, Holy Child Jan 14: Ladies Guild, 6:00 pm, Holy Child Hall

> HOLY CHILD PARISH **MASS INTENTIONS & CANDLE INTENTIONS 2025 CALENDAR NOW OPEN**

> > Please use the Request Forms



available in our churches and available to print from our website (holychildparish.com) (menu > "Mass Intentions").

Each family may request: Up to a total of ten (10) Mass intentions per year, including up to three (3) weekend Mass intentions per year, one (1) First Friday, and one (1) First Saturday. Up to ten (10) Sanctuary Candle intentions per year.



Week of December 08, 2024



Christmas Special | Laugh and Grow Bible for Kids

Hosted by the Hopeful World, this beautiful retelling of the story of Jesus' birth will help kids understand the true meaning of Christmas. Viewers both young and old will be filled with hope as they recall God's promise fulfilled through our Savior's arrival.



Guadalupe: The Miracle and

the Message Enjoy this film narrated by Jim Caviezel that walks us through our Mother's miraculous appearance to Juan Diego, an encounter that has influenced the conversion of millions of people.



What Is The Immaculate Conception?

What is the Immaculate Conception? Use this video to help teach kids about this great mystery of our faith.

Our parish has a FORMED subscription Visit signup formed org and select our parish name



LECTIO BIBLE STUDY: JESUS & THE **JEWISH ROOTS OF ADVENT**

Sundays after 11:15 Mass, 11/24-12/29

Dr. Brant Pitre shows how the ancient Jewish prophecies of the Messiah can help unlock the hidden meanings of Advent. In this study of readings from the Advent lectionary, you will learn about:

• The Second Advent at the End of Time • The Jewish Prophecies of the Messiah • John the Baptist • The Jesse Tree • The City of Bethlehem • The Virgin Birth Please join us! Light refreshments provided.



HEALTH MINISTRY—NOTES

In a perfect world, you are prescribed a medication for a condition or illness; you get it filled, take it as directed, and the problem is solved. Right? Well, here are some **common mistakes** that can put you

and your friend or family's health in jeopardy. Sharing *medication*. A friend or family member comes down with what appears to be the same condition as you, so you share some of your medication to help them out. Bad idea! Antibiotics must be taken as directed (typically, you must use the entire prescription) or it will not cure the infection, rather, it will suppress it, allowing the infection to become more resistant to antibiotics. There is also the potential for a life-threatening allergic reaction. Sharing pain medication is also a bad idea. If someone has pain so severe to require prescription pain medication, they need to see a care provider. Not telling your healthcare provider about over-thecounter medicines. A complete list will avoid possible drug interactions. Not taking medications as directed. How many of us truly read the medication information and directions. Should this medicine be taken on an empty stomach or can it be taken with food? Should we avoid certain foods, such as grapefruit with cholesterol medications. Are you taking your insulin correctly?



ATTN: HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS-CAPUCHIN SISTERS OF NAZARETH

capuchinsisters.com

The Capuchin Sisters of Nazareth invite all young women (grades 9 - 12) to come and learn more about the Faith, make wholesome friendships, and grow more in love with Jesus through prayer and hearing inspirational talks.



<u>Nazareth Group (11:00 am—4:30 pm): 2/1, 4/5, 6/7</u> Mother of the Eucharist Covent, Williamsport, PA RSVP with Sr. Clare (570) 745-3334 or Mother of God Convent, Tunkhannock, PA RSVP with Sr. Angela (570) 836-2737

SCAM ALERT



If you receive a text message or phone call from an unknown number claiming to be Father Bryan, possibly asking for help...disregard. If Father needs you, he will speak with you directly.

SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF MARY

(December 9th; not a Holy Day of Obligation This Year)

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 already-existing 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/immaculate-conception-and-assumption

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE MOTHER OF THE AMERICAS, PRAY FOR US! Feast Day—Thursday, December 12—Please Join Us



Please join us at Holy Child Church:

5:15 pm—Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

5:30 pm—Joyful Mysteries of the Holy Rosary

5:55 pm—Prayer of Preparation for Holy Mass (pg. 337 of Missalette)

6:00 pm—Angelus, Benediction (Tantum Ergo, Blessing, Divine Praises)

Cardinal Burke's Prayer of Consecration to Our Lady of Guadalupe

6:10 pm—Repose of the Blessed Sacrament

6:15 pm—Mass

Following Communion—Consecration of Marian Ministries to the Patronage of Our Lady of Guadalupe

7:15 pm—Light Reception in Holy Child Hall

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION TO OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

BY RAYMOND LEO CARDINAL BURKE December 12, 2024

In March of this year, Cardinal Burke began leading us in a nine-month Novena to Our Lady of Guadalupe, concluding with this special Prayer of Consecration to be prayed this Thursday, December 12th, the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

O Holy Virgin Mary, Mother of God and my compassionate Mother,¹ I, with Saint Juan Diego, your faithful and courageous messenger, prostrate myself before your Beloved Image.² With all my heart, I, too, desire to be your messenger. With Saint Juan Diego, may my heart be totally one with your Sorrowful and Immaculate Heart, perfectly united to the glorious pierced Heart of your Divine Son, Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Conscious of my sins, of the evils oppressing the world and threatening the Church, and of the unrelenting guile of Satan, "the father of lies,"³ I come before you, seeking your protection

and invoking your intercession, that I may belong totally to your Divine Son, King of the Universe and King of my heart. Incarnate in your womb at Nazareth and born of you at Bethlehem, He came into the world to save me from sin and everlasting death. Obtaining my eternal salvation by His death on the Cross, He gave you to me to be my mother forever.⁴ As His Mother, bring Him to me, and, as my Mother, bring me to Him Who alone is "the way, the truth, and the life,"⁵ teaching me, as you taught the wine stewards at the Wedding Feast of Cana: "Do whatever He tells you."⁶

Before the troubles, the miseries, and the pains which afflict me, the world, and the Church,⁷ I am tempted to give way to discouragement and to claim helplessness.⁸ In moments of temptation, remind me that you have chosen me to be your messenger and that Our Lord, without measure and without cease, sustains with the sevenfold grace of the Holy Spirit a humble and contrite heart.⁹ Help me to remain, with you, one in heart with the Sacred Heart of Jesus, trusting that God's promises to me will indeed be fulfilled.¹⁰ Keeping me "in the hollow of your mantle" and "in the crossing of your arms,"¹¹ let no trouble, no misery, no pain obscure or diminish my service as your faithful messenger. Rather, with maternal love, encourage and strengthen me to take up steadfastly and joyfully the cross of pure and selfless love, which is indeed my only hope, my only way to joy and peace here and now, and to its fullness in the eternal life of Heaven.¹²

Under your protection and through your intercession, may I, every day and at every moment of the day, give myself anew to Jesus, "my Lord and my God,"¹³ and may I, with you, draw to Him the many who do not yet know Him and the many who have known Him but are now far away from Him. Please intercede for me, that, through my conversion of life to Him and through His grace at work in my heart, my every thought, attitude, word, and action may attract others to Him Who alone is their salvation. Please intercede for my family and my homeland, that Christ the King may rule in all hearts from His Most Sacred Heart, pierced by the soldier's spear as He died on Calvary and now seated in eternal glory at the right hand of the Father, dispelling all darkness, all sin, and all attraction to sin.

O Virgin Mother of God and my compassionate Mother, prostrate before your Beloved Image, I now unite my heart forever to your Sorrowful and Immaculate Heart, finding my true and lasting home in the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. I consecrate myself to you, the Perfect Virgin, Saint Mary of Guadalupe.¹⁴ I promise to be your ever faithful and courageous messenger on earth. Thus, at the end of my earthly pilgrimage, may I be forever in your company, together with the angels and all the saints, praising and glorifying God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Please accept my Act of Consecration and never let me betray the gift of myself to you which, today, I make with all my heart. Amen.



(1) Nican Mopohua, nos. 26 and 29. (2) Nican Mopohua, no.183. (3) Jn 8, 44. (4) Cf. Jn 19, 26 -27. (5) Jn 14, 6. (6) Jn 2, 5. (7) Cf. Nican Mopohua, no. 32. (8) Cf. Nican Mopohua, nos. 54-56 and 111-116. (9) Cf. Is 57, 15. (10) Cf. Lk 2, 45. (11) Nican Mopohua, no. 119. (12) Cf. Mt 10, 38; 16, 34; Mk 8, 34; Lk 9, 23; Jn 12, 25-26. (13) Jn 20, 28. (14) Nican Mopohua, no. 208.



swered (if it be God's will). It has never been known to fail. Thank you, St. Jude. Amen.



maintain a prayerful

www.SpecialOccasionsofMansfield.com

1803 Route 287.

◆Luncheons after Funeral Masses

Eulogies are not permitted during Funeral Masses (CCC1688). Thank you.