



Jerusalem, take off your robe
of mourning and misery;
put on forever the splendor
of glory from God.

BARUCH 5:1



Coming Home

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

Coming home can take place in many varied ways. Sometimes it's at the end of a long day when we come home to where we can be ourselves without any pretensions. Sometimes it's going back to the neighborhood we grew up in, to the old haunts that remind us of the dreams we had and how they now seem tucked in every niche. Sometimes coming home is what happens after many wanderings, after we've sown our oats and harvested little and now have nowhere else to go. That too is a coming home, back to where it all began, back to where we dare to hope that life might begin again.

All of this is how the Hebrew people found themselves coming home to Jerusalem after eighty years of exile, coming back to start anew with the hope that their God would once again be proud of them, back to where they could be as God intended them to be. All of that is what we do when we decide we will try to be the sort of person we'd always hoped to become. It's when we attempt a second effort at making a marriage work, or a job productive, or maybe simply putting the pieces of our lives back in some sort of order. It's all about coming back home to God's dream for us, a kind of second Advent, when God comes into our lives and is born once again. ●

Reflect

Have you wandered too far from the values of your true home? Can you find your way back?

Catholic Communities

Parish Pastor

Rev. William Pifher
419-446-9288



Our Lady of Mercy

409 E. Main St.
Fayette, OH 43521

MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday 8:30 a.m.
Thursday 9:00 a.m.

PASTORAL COUNCIL

Ron Eisel
Pat Eisel
Ray Hollstein
Mike Burkholder
Traci Maginn
Barbara Roby

FINANCE COUNCIL

Barb Bruggeman
Terry Kovar
Joanna Marry

Clothing items can be donated via our drop off site on the east side of the building. Our store is open on Thursdays from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Contact Rhonda Monahan at 517-306-7986 for information.



OLM PARISH OFFICE

P.O. Box 429
Fayette, OH 43521

Phone: 419-237-2441

Hours: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Tuesday and Thursday

PARISH STAFF

Secretary: Sherry Renner

OLOMFayette@olom2441.onmicrosoft.com

Bookkeeper

Tami Baker

OLOMBookkeeper@olom2441.onmicrosoft.com

CRE

Mary Bird

OLOMCre@olom2441.onmicrosoft.com

Prayer Chain

OLOMPrayerchain@olom.2441.onmicrosoft.com

Website (bulletin online)

stpeterarchbold.com/our-lady-of-mercy



St. Peter

614 N. Defiance St.
Archbold, OH 43502

MASS SCHEDULE

1st Saturday of month 8:30 a.m.
Saturday 4:30 p.m.
Sunday 10:30 a.m.
Tuesday 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday 9:00 a.m.
Friday 9:00 a.m.

Parish Secretary

Kim Garrow 419-446-2150
email-stpeter@rtexpres.net

Religious Ed

Deb Herring

Parish Council President

Stephen Bernath

SACRAMENT INFORMATION

- **Baptism:** Please call Father Pifher at 419-446-9288 to make arrangements for Baptism. A month's notice would be helpful.
- **Reconciliation:** Father will be available for confessions **starting 30 minutes before Mass each week.**
- **New Parishioners:** A warm welcome as you enter our Parish Community! You are asked to register at the parish office or see the pastor as soon as possible. If you are moving from the parish, please inform the office so we may remove your name from our parish records.
- **Anointing of the Sick:** Those who can participate: Anyone who is seriously sick or suffering a grave illness (not a cold, or flu) which is treated or medicated for by a doctor. Also for those of old age which often brings morale or depression factors (body, mind, or spirit). Please make arrangements with Father or call the parish office.
- **Matrimony:** Please contact the Parish Office *six months* ahead of your planned wedding date, for Marriage Preparation and scheduling.
- **RCIA :** The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is a series of classes designed to bring new members into the Catholic church. Weekly sessions begin in September. People who have not been baptized, who have not been practicing or who have been raised in another faith are all welcome to register. Parishioners are encouraged to invite interested family members and friends. There is no obligation to join the church. This is simply an opportunity to learn more about the Catholic faith. Contact Fr. William Pifher at 419-446-9288.

BULLETIN DEADLINE: Please note that the bulletin deadline is **Tuesday, Noon.** Please either call, email at

OLOMFayette@olom2441.onmicrosoft.com or put in the collection basket any announcement for the following week's bulletin.

SUNDAY, December 8, 2024

2nd Sunday of Advent

ROSARY WILL BE PRAYED SUNDAY'S AT 8 A.M.

BFF (Breakfast, Friends & Fellowship)

Thank you all for coming to the BFF's after Mass. The Altar Rosary Society wishes all of you and your families a very Joyous Christmas and Happy New Year. Our next BFF will be January 12, 2025.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Dec. 8 & 15 – class after Mass (Penance Service today)

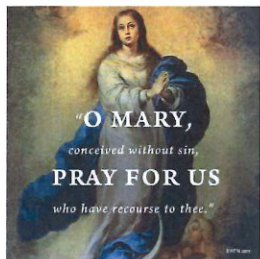
Dec. 22 & 29 class at Home

THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Mass schedule Monday, December 9, 2024

Our Lady of Mercy Rosary 8:30 a.m. Mass 9:00 a.m.

St. Peter – Rosary 6:30 p.m. Mass 7:00 p.m.



DECORATING CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS

Decorating the church for Christmas will occur after Mass on Sunday, December 22. Anyone interested in helping with the decorating, please plan to stay after Mass that Sunday. If you would like to volunteer to help or have any questions, please contact Tami Baker.

COMMUNITY PREGNANCY CENTER CHRISTMAS PROJECT

Our Lady of Mercy CCD students are collecting baby wipes and ointment for their Christmas project and inviting the Parishioners to help. If you would like to donate please put donation in the box at the back of church.

AREA CONFESSION OR PENANCE SERVICES

St. Augustine (Napoleon) – December 11, 2024, Mass at 6p.m., Penance Service 6:30 p.m.

St. Richard (Swanton) – December 12, 2024 at 7 p.m.

St. Patrick (Bryan) – Dec. 12, 5 p.m. – 7 p.m.,

SALVATION ARMY BELL RINGING

Our Lady of Mercy's days to ring the Salvation Army bell at Circle K here in Fayette, is Friday, December 21 & Saturday, December 22. All donations stay here in the Fayette community. Sign up form is on the back podium. Any questions please call Jerry Van Zile at 419-572-1389.

THE WISDOM OF THE SAINTS – Introduction by Matthew Kelly

"Be a Catholic: When you kneel before an altar, do it in such a way that others may be able to recognize that you know before whom you kneel." - St. Maximilian Kolbe

DIARY OF SAINT MARIA FAUSTINA KOWALSKA

Notebook 1

820 My Guardian Angel told me to pray for a certain soul, and in the morning I learned that it was a man whose agony had begun that very moment. The Lord Jesus makes it known to me in a special way when someone is in need of my prayer. I especially know when my prayer is needed by a dying soul. This happens more often now than it did in the past.

821 (210) The Lord Jesus gave me to know how very pleasing to Him is a soul who lives in accordance with the will of God. It thereby gives glory to God.....

ST. PETER NEWS

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Every Tuesday starting at 8 a.m. ending with Mass at 7 p.m.

Did you know that Deacon Larry Zachrich is also available for Baptisms and Weddings? Contact Larry at 419-966-7091.

FAYETTE/SURROUNDING AREA COMMUNITY EVENTS

---Dec. 14 – Fayette Winter Market – activities throughout town
4 p.m. – 8 p.m

---Dec. 18 – Community Meal 5 – 6 p.m. Methodist Family Life Center

If you know of any Fayette Community events, please either call or visit the office or email to
OLOMFayette@olom2441.onmicrosoft.com

Prayer chain-ANYONE wishing to submit prayer requests can email or call Our Lady of Mercy office. Email olomprayerchain@olom2441.onmicrosoft.com

Privacy Issues for Parish Office:

IMMEDIATE FAMILY – must contact the parish office for all prayer requests to be posted in the parish bulletin. Please submit with the exact verbiage requested. Contact Sherry Renner at the parish office at 419-237-2441, no later than Thursday at noon. By law, the parish office does not divulge private information we receive from hospitals.

WHAT IS ADVENT ?

(from USCCB.org)


Beginning the Church's liturgical year, Advent (from, "ad-venire" in Latin or "to come to") is the season encompassing the four Sundays (and weekdays) leading up to the celebration of [Christmas](#).

The Advent season is a time of **preparation** that directs our hearts and minds to Christ's second coming at the end of time and to the anniversary of Our Lord's birth on Christmas. From the earliest days of the Church, people have been fascinated by Jesus' promise to come back. But the scripture readings during Advent tell us not to waste our time with predictions. Advent is not about speculation. Our Advent readings call us to be alert and ready, not weighted down and distracted by the cares of this world (Lk 21:34-36). Like Lent, the liturgical color for Advent is purple since both are seasons that prepare us for great feast days. Advent also includes an element of penance in the sense of preparing, quieting, and disciplining our hearts for the full joy of Christmas.

As we prepare for Christmas, the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* notes some differences to the Mass that should be observed during the season. For instance, the priest wears violet or purple during Advent, except for the Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday) when rose may be worn (GIRM, no. 346). Aside from what the priest wears, other aesthetic changes in the Church can include a more modestly decorated altar.

The final days of Advent, from December 17 to December 24, we focus on our preparation for the celebrations of the Nativity of our Lord at Christmas. In particular, the "O" Antiphons are sung during this period and have been by the Church since at least the eighth century. They are a magnificent theology that uses ancient biblical imagery drawn from the messianic hopes of the Old Testament to proclaim the coming of Christ as the fulfillment not only of Old Testament hopes, but of present ones as well.

Advent devotions including the Advent wreath, remind us of the meaning of the season. Our Advent calendar (below) can help you fully enter into the season with daily activity and prayer suggestions to prepare you spiritually for the birth of Jesus Christ.

ADVENT CALENDAR 2024							ADVENT CALENDAR 2024						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>The First Sunday of Advent</p> <p>Begin your Advent journey by blessing your Advent wreath. Light the first violet candle and sing "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel."</p>	<p>What can you do this Advent to prepare your heart and life for the coming of Christ?</p>	<p>In those days Judah shall be safe and Jerusalem shall dwell secure; this is what they shall call her: "The LORD our justice." Jeremiah 33:16</p>	<p>"By his personal presence in the life of the pilgrim Church, the Holy Spirit illumines all believers with the light of hope. He keeps that light burning, like an ever-burning lamp, to sustain our lives." Pope Francis, <i>Jubilee Book of Indultion</i>, no. 3</p>	<p>Make plans to receive the gift of God's mercy in the Sacrament of Penance during this Advent season.</p>	<p>In honor of Saint Nicholas, known for his generosity to those in need, in this season of giving, make a gift of your time or treasure to an agency that works with those who lack the necessities of life.</p>	<p>Consider joining the Walk with One Initiative (Walk With One Eucharistic Renewal Initiative for the Year of Mission) to invite someone into a deeper relationship with Christ and to accompany them on their spiritual journey.</p>	<p>The Third Sunday of Advent</p> <p>Today is the Third Sunday of Advent, Gaudete Sunday. At this halfway point in the season of Advent, light two violet candles and the rose candle on your Advent wreath and Rejoice! For the Lord is near!</p>	<p>According to custom, the Christmas tree is set up before Christmas and remains in place until the Solemnity of Epiphany. Share this blessing with your family and friends.</p>	<p>Today marks the beginning of the "O Antiphons." This tradition, which comes from Evening Prayer, has been around since at least the eighth century.</p>	<p>The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a mighty savior; he will rejoice over you with gladness, and renew you in his love. Zephaniah 3:17</p>	<p>"All of us, however, need to recover the joy of living, since men and women, created in the image and likeness of God (cf. Gen 1:26) cannot rest content with getting along one day at a time, settling for the here and now and seeking fulfillment in material realities alone." Pope Francis, <i>Jubilee Book of Indultion</i>, no. 9</p>	<p>Use this blessing to bless the nativity scene in your home: Blessing of a Christmas Manger or Nativity Scene USCCB</p>	<p>As winter begins in the Northern hemisphere, consider how you can share the light and warmth of Christ with others, especially those on the margins, in the new year.</p>
<p>The Second Sunday of Advent</p> <p>On this Second Sunday of Advent, light two violet candles on your Advent wreath and ask God for the strength to be like John the Baptist, preparing the way of the Lord.</p>	<p>This year, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception is observed today. Attend Mass and pray the Rosary, if possible.</p>	<p>I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Christ Jesus. Philippians 1:6</p>	<p>In the bustle of the holiday season, spend some time this week in silence and prayer, possibly before the Blessed Sacrament, to prepare your heart to receive the Lord at Christmas.</p>	<p>Today is the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Our Lady of Guadalupe reminds us that God's unfailing love encompasses all of us, regardless of immigration status, race, nationality, and all other differences. Learn more at Our Lady of Guadalupe - Justice for Immigrants.</p>	<p>On this Memorial of Saint Lucy, patron saint of persons who are blind, consider ways that your parish, community, and other groups can become more welcoming to persons with disabilities.</p>	<p>"We need to recognize the immense goodness present in our world, lest we be tempted to think ourselves overwhelmed by evil and violence. The signs of the times, which include the yearning of human hearts in need of God's saving presence, ought to become signs of hope." Pope Francis, <i>Jubilee Book of Indultion</i>, no. 7</p>	<p>The Fourth Sunday of Advent</p> <p>On this Fourth Sunday of Advent, light all three violet candles and the rose candle on your Advent wreath and pray that the light of Christ will enter your heart so that you may share the warmth of God's love with those you meet.</p>	<p>Spend a family evening eating cookies and drinking hot chocolate while you read the Christmas cards you have received. Before bed, pray an Our Father and a Hail Mary for all your beloved family and friends.</p>	<p>"Through our witness, may hope spread to all those who anxiously seek it. May the way we live our lives say to them in so many words: 'Hope in the Lord!' Hold firm, take heart and hold in the Lord" (Ps 27:14). May the power of hope fill our days, as we await with confidence the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, to whom we praise and glory, now and forever." Pope Francis, <i>Jubilee Book of Indultion</i>, no. 25</p>	<p>Before opening presents, gather at your Nativity Scene and read the Christmas story (Luke 2:1-20) from your family Bible.</p>			

Saints of the Day

(www.morningoffering.com)

Week of Dec. 8 – Dec. 14

Sunday, Dec. 8 – St. Patapios - St. Patapios (4th c.) was born in Thebes, Egypt. His parents were prominent Christians, and his father was the governor of the region. Patapios was well-educated by the best tutors, and his learning awakened in him a desire to shun the world and its materialism and seek a life of asceticism. Inspired by the manner of life of the Church Fathers, Patapios became a desert hermit upon his father's death. He later moved away to live in a cave near Corinth, and then sailed to Constantinople to live as a simple monk in the Monastery of Blachernae. There he fasted, prayed, and performed miracles until his death at the age of 83. In the early 20th century, a local priest planning renovations discovered his relics after the saint appeared to him in a dream and informed him where they were located. His relics were found the next day holding a large wooden cross on his chest and a parchment scroll bearing his name. St. Patapios' feast day is December 8th.

Monday, Dec. 9 – St. Juan Diego - St. Juan Diego (1474–1548) was a poor and humble peasant of the lowest class of Aztec Indians living in what is today Mexico. His native name was Cuauhtlatoatzin, meaning, "eagle that talks." He was baptized at the age of fifty by a Franciscan missionary priest and received the Christian name of Juan Diego. It was he to whom Our Lady appeared as a pregnant Aztec princess on December 9, 1531—at that time the feast of the Immaculate Conception—on the hill of Tepeyac, in present-day Mexico City, as he was on his way to Mass. To help Juan Diego prove to the bishop that she had truly appeared, the Virgin Mary miraculously left her image on his tilma. This image is now famously known as Our Lady of Guadalupe. St. Juan Diego's tilma still bears the image of Our Lady (miraculously, as the plant fibers normally disintegrate in 15-20 years) and it hangs in one of the most famous Catholic pilgrimage sites of the world, the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City. Juan Diego was canonized in 2002 by Pope St. John Paul II as the first indigenous saint from the Americas. His feast day is December 9th.

Tuesday, Dec. 10– Our Lady of Loreto- Our Lady of Loreto is a title of the Blessed Virgin Mary associated with the house where Mary was born, the site of the Annunciation, and the dwelling place of the Holy Family. The tradition and history of the Holy House goes back to Apostolic times. In the 13th century the house was mysteriously moved in one piece from Nazareth in the Holy Land to a final resting place in Loreto, Italy, carried by angels, a miracle to which the Church attests. It was transported to prevent its destruction by Muslims who destroyed the basilica which housed it. A new basilica was built around the Holy House in Italy, known as the Shrine of Our Lady of Loreto, one of the most popular pilgrimage sites in the world. Written at the door of the basilica are these words: "The whole world has no place more sacred ... For here was the Word made Flesh, and here was born the Virgin Mother." Our Lady of Loreto is the patron of aviators, fliers, pilots, and builders. Her feast day is December 10th.

Wednesday, Dec. 11– Pope St. Damasus I - Pope St. Damasus I (306-384 A.D.) was born into a Christian family in Rome. He became a deacon and served at the Basilica of St. Lawrence in Rome where his father served as priest. After the death of Pope Liberius, Damasus was elected Pope in the year 366 A.D. Violence broke out as a rival pope was also elected, and the two factions fought to enforce their candidate. Damasus was confirmed as the rightful pope by the Roman Emperor, and the anti-pope was banished from the city. Pope Damasus chose the scripture scholar St. Jerome as his personal secretary, to whom he commissioned the translation of the Bible into Latin (the Latin Vulgate). It was during Damasus' reign that Christianity was declared the religion of the Roman state. Pope Damasus also called the Council of Rome in 382 A.D. to clarify the canon of Sacred Scripture. He opposed heresy, worked to preserve the catacombs, and advocated for devotion to the Christians martyred under the Roman persecutions. His feast day is December 11.

Thursday, Dec. 12– Our Lady of Guadalupe - St. Juan Diego, a humble Aztec peasant, saw the Blessed Virgin Mary on the Hill of Tepeyac near present-day Mexico City on December 9, 1531, the feast of the Immaculate Conception at the time. After a request by the bishop to prove her identity, Our Lady asked Juan Diego to gather the roses which he found growing on the hill, which were neither native to the area nor in season, and take them to the bishop. Juan Diego did so and placed the roses in his tilma (or cloak). Upon opening the tilma to reveal the miraculous roses to the bishop, there was something even more miraculous present—an image of the Virgin Mary dressed as a pregnant Aztec princess. The various design elements on the tilma read like a codex to the Aztecs, revealing to them the truth of the Catholic faith preached by the missionary priests. Millions quickly converted to the Catholic Church as a result. This apparition and image is venerated under the title of Our Lady of Guadalupe, the first Marian apparition in the New World, and the only one where Our Lady produced an image of herself. The perfectly preserved tilma is venerated at her basilica and shrine in Mexico City. Our Lady of Guadalupe is the patroness of the Americas, the New Evangelization, and unborn children. Her feast day is December 12th.

Friday, Dec. 13- St. Lucy of Syracuse - St. Lucy (Lucia) of Syracuse (283-304 A.D.) was born to a wealthy Christian family on the island of Sicily. Her father died when she was in her infancy. Lucy grew in piety, and at a young age secretly consecrated her virginity to Christ. Her mother pressured her into an arranged marriage with a pagan nobleman in order to provide for her daughter's future, which Lucy avoided. When Lucy's mother was struck with a long and serious illness, Lucy convinced her mother to accompany her to pray at the tomb of St. Agatha. As a result, Lucy's mother was miraculously cured of her malady. Lucy then told her mother about her vow of chastity, and her mother consented to her refusal to marry. Lucy gave herself to serving persecuted Christians hiding in the catacombs, wearing a wreath of candles on her head to illumine the dark underground caverns, with her arms full of provisions. The man to whom Lucy was betrothed, upon finding that Lucy was a Christian and had refused his hand in marriage, had her imprisoned under the persecutions of Diocletian. The judge sentenced Lucy to prostitution in a brothel, but God rendered her body immovable and the soldiers were unable to carry out the task. They then tried to set her on fire, but the wood underneath Lucy would not burn. Finally, she was killed by the sword. Among her tortures her eyes were gouged out, making St. Lucy the patron saint of eye problems and blind people, among others. St. Lucy is among the great virgin martyrs of the Church, her name appearing in the Roman Canon of the Mass. Her feast day is December 13th.

Saturday, Dec. 14 - St. John of the Cross - St. John of the Cross (1542-1591) - also known as San Juan de la Cruz - was born to a poor family in Old Castile, Spain. His father married below his rank and was disinherited as a result. After his father's early death, John was raised in poverty by his mother. He studied and served at a local hospital while committing himself to severe penances. Uncertain of his life's direction, he was told in prayer that he should enter religious life in order to bring reform. John joined the ancient Carmelite Order and received permission to observe their original rule of life, quickly earning a reputation for his humility, obedience, and religious fervor. He later met St. Teresa of Avila, a reforming Carmelite abbess who recognized the greatness of John's virtue and requested his assistance to found a monastery of friars under the primitive Carmelite rule, as she had done for her nuns. Together they founded the Discalced Carmelites, a contemplative order of strict religious observance. His reforms began to spread, and as a result John was captured, imprisoned, and physically abused by his fellow friars. His sufferings helped him to write his most famous work, *Dark Night of the Soul*. After nine months he made a miraculous escape and he went on to found and govern several Carmelite monasteries. St. John of the Cross became an authority on the spiritual life, and his profound writings and poetry are considered among the greatest of all Spanish literature. Because of his invaluable writings he was named a Doctor of the Church and the patron saint of mystics, contemplatives, and Spanish poets. His feast day is December 14th.



Our Lady of Mercy Parish

DECEMBER 8, 2024



PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church is united by our commitment to minister to the physical and spiritual needs of our rural families and steward the resources entrusted to us. We value the diversity within our Catholic community and invite all to walk with us on our journey of faith.

THIS WEEK'S MASS SCHEDULE

Date	Time	Church	Intention
Sun. Dec. 8	8:30a.m.	OLM	Eddie Tidwell Giovanni Stella
	10:30a.m.	SP	For the People
Mon. Dec. 9 Immaculate Conception	9:00a.m.	OLM	For the People
	7:00p.m.	SP	For the People
Tues. Dec. 10	7:00 p.m.	SP	For the People
Wed. Dec. 11	9:00 a.m.	SP	For the People
Thurs. Dec. 12	9:00 a.m.	OLM	Giovanni Stella
Fri. Dec. 13		SP	For the People
Sat. Dec. 14	4:30 pm	SP	For the People
Sun. Dec. 15	8:30a.m.	OLM	Marcel Bonin Joy Short
	10:30a.m.	SP	Gina Dammon

UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS

- Religious Ed. Dates
- Dec. 22 & Dec. 29 – at home
- Dec. 8 & 15 – Rel. Ed. After Mass
- Dec. 8 – Penance Service after Mass starting at 9:30 a.m. (Religious Ed. Students first)
- Dec. 9 – Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary – Masses
- 9 a.m – Our Lady of Mercy
- 7 p.m. – St. Peter
- Dec. 17 – Dec. 24 OLOM Christmas Novena
- Dec. 22 – Decorate for Christmas after Mass

SACRIFICIAL OFFERING REPORT

Reported for December 1, 2024

SUNDAY OFFERTORY (13 envelopes)	\$ 1,186.00
LOOSE OFFERINGS	\$ 52.00
BUDGET	\$ 1,747.00
Over / (Under)	(\$ 509.00)

OTHER COLLECTION

Immaculate Conception	\$ 5.00
Christmas Flowers	\$ 155.00
Christmas	\$ 195.00
Solemnity of Mary	\$ 5.00

TOTAL COLLECTIONS (Sunday & Other) \$ 1,598.00

NEXT WEEK'S MINISTERS

December 15, 2024

Greeters/Gifts	Angie Beauregard Mary Bird
Reader	Shelly Gruman
Servers	Evan Beauregard Kennedy Kunkle
Ushers	Phil & Tami Baker
Ministers of the Eucharist	Until further notice
Money Counters	Phil Baker Terry Kovar Michelle Miron

Word(s) of the week (from The America College Dictionary)

PREPARE – to make ready, or put in due condition, for something

as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah:
*A voice of one crying out in the desert:
 "Prepare the way of the Lord,
 Make straight his paths.
 Every valley shall be filled
 and every mountain and hill shall be made low.
 The winding roads shall be made straight,
 And the rough wasy made smooth,
 and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."*

Luke 3:4-6

Dear Padre,

If Christmas is on December 25, why is the Immaculate Conception on December 8, rather than sometime in March?

The doctrine of the Immaculate Conception asserts that Mary was free of the stain of original sin from the time she was conceived in her mother's womb. Jesus was also free of the stain of original sin and his conception by Mary is referred to as the Incarnation of Christ. Mary's Immaculate Conception is often confused for Christ's Incarnation.

In the Church's liturgical calendar, Mary's conception is celebrated on December 8; her birthday is celebrated exactly nine months later on September 8. Likewise, Christ's conception is celebrated on March 25 on the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord; his birthday is celebrated exactly nine months later on December 25.

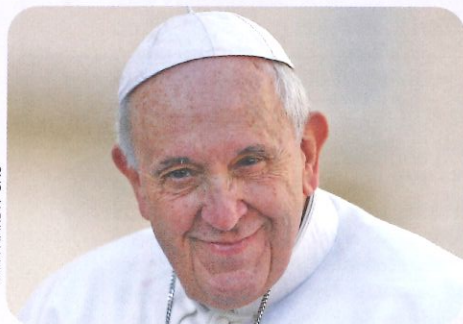
Mary's Immaculate Conception was celebrated many centuries before Pope Pius IX defined it as dogma on December 8, 1854: "The doctrine that maintains that the Blessed Virgin Mary in the first instant of her conception, by a unique grace and privilege granted to her by Almighty God, in consideration of the merits of Jesus Christ the Savior of mankind, was preserved free from all stain of original sin, is a doctrine revealed by God and therefore must be firmly and constantly believed by all the faithful" (*Ineffabilis Deus*). In fact, eight years before, in 1846, the bishops of the United States had already adopted the Immaculate Conception as the patronal feast for Catholics in this country.



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION BY PHILIP VERT (1830) RENATA SEMENAKOVA / SHUTTERSTOCK

Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
December 9 <i>Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i> Gn 3:9-15, 20 Eph 1:3-6, 11-12 Lk 1:26-38	December 10 <i>Advent Weekday</i> Is 40:1-11 Mt 18:12-14	December 11 <i>Advent Weekday</i> Is 40:25-31 Mt 11:28-30	December 12 <i>Our Lady of Guadalupe</i> Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47	December 13 <i>St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr</i> Is 48:17-19 Mt 11:16-19	December 14 <i>St. John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church</i> Sir 48:1-4, 9-11 Mt 17:9a, 10-13	December 15 <i>Third Sunday of Advent</i> Zep 3:14-18a Phil 4:4-7 Lk 3:10-18



YARA NARDI / CNS

A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

By calling us to conversion, John urges us to go "beyond" where we presently are; to go beyond what our instincts tell us....

Let us ask for the grace to believe that with God things really do change, that he will banish our fears, heal our wounds....

Let us ask for the grace of hope....

HOMILY, ATHENS, DECEMBER 5, 2021