



Immaculate Conception Parish

Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

November 19, 2023



Mass Intentions

FOR THE WEEK



Sat. 11/18 4:00 PM
Thomas and Esther Yancus by Nancy Sisock and Family

Sun. 11/19 11:00 AM
Frank and Mary Balas by Their Daughter Margaret

Mon. 11/20 7:00 PM
John Dias by Virginia

Tue. 11/21 7:00 AM
Veronica Wish by Mary Jane Cusatis

Wed. 11/22 7:00 AM
Anne Marie Ceriani by Fred and Cathy Meier

Thur. 11/23 9:00 AM Thanksgiving
John and Emma Grega by Their Family

Fri. 11/24 7:00 AM
Anna Marie Kopczynskie by John and JoAnn Kopczynskie

Sat. 11/25 4:00 PM
Lillian Strohl by Her Husband Oscar

Sun. 11/26 11:00 AM
John E. Howanitz by His Children and Grandchildren



Remember Your Offerings

Last Weekend:
 Sunday \$3,213; Loose \$228; Dues \$1,815; Care and Education of Priests \$173; World Mission \$15; All Saints Day \$188; Capital Improvement \$144; Poor Box \$116



CANDLES ON THE ALTAR And OUR SACRISTY CANDLE



are burning this week in Memory of John Dias by Virginia

MEMORIAL DONATIONS in Memory of Ann Marie Della Croce: \$25 from: Dan Ravina; JoAnne Korol and Barbara Batcha; Patrick and Lucille Maloney; Raymond Eroh; Michael and Susan Ritsko; \$50 from: Gene Della Croce; Gerald and Mary Feissner; John and Mary Skwierz; Ronald, Arlene, and Ronald Antolick; John and Marilyn Yanek; \$100 from: Tom and Marlene Stelmock; Douglas, Marcella, Sara, and Rachel Metzgar; Ralph and Debbie Cameron.

THE HOUR OF KINDNESS MINISTRY will meet on Saturday, November 25th, at 9:00 AM in the rectory to sign Christmas and New Years cards for our treasured elderly and our homebound parishioners. Anyone with an hour to spare is welcome and encouraged to help in this wonderfully rewarding ministry.



OUR ANNUAL GIVING TREE is loaded with Christmas wishes from the needy children of our Freeland community. Each gift should be approximately \$25 – \$30. Gifts **MUST BE** on the altar by Sunday, December 16th. If you cannot bring your gift, please let us know as soon as possible.

Every year people call the office because they have lost their gift tag from the Giving Tree and cannot remember what their gift was. This year we are asking that you call the office 570-636-3035 and register your gift. This will help us tremendously in the organization of the gifts. Thanking you in advance for helping us.



Please join us on Sunday, December 3rd, to celebrate the start of the Advent season. It will be an opportunity to relax and refocus with friends on the true meaning of Christmas. This year's program, **"The Light to Brighten Your Christmas"**, will start at **5:00 PM** in the church of Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception & will include scripture readings, music and reflection, festive decorated tables, snacks, refreshments, and desserts.

The program is open to both parishes and anyone who would like to attend. To host a table or reserve a seat, please sign up in the back of the church or contact Michalene Prokopovich at 570-788-6970 by **Sunday, November 26th.**

Please plan to join us for this beautiful & memorable Advent celebration. Hope to see you there!!



During the month of November, instead of a weekly message, we will be telling our vocation stories.

Father Binesh's Vocation Journey: "Make me a channel of Your peace" – this was the resonating theme of my ordination. When I contemplate my vocational journey, a tapestry of poignant moments unfolds. Born into a deeply devout Christian family, the seeds of my calling were sown within me at birth, lovingly nurtured by the embrace of my upbringing. From an early age, I was graced with the opportunity to serve as an altar boy, a divine blessing considering the competition in my church (it was reserved for middle and high school students). I was selected for this sacred role in the fourth grade, shortly after receiving my holy communion. (which is a blessing). The longing to become a missionary priest had already taken root within my heart, perhaps fueled by the stories shared by visiting priests who regaled me with their adventures in distant lands during their holiday visits.

My daily pilgrimage to the church became a non-negotiable commitment. I found solace in the company of priests, admiring their cassocks and the sacred aura they exuded. I prayed fervently, partaking in our family rosary every evening at 7:00 PM and morning prayers at 5:45 AM (no excuse to miss it).

My spiritual journey evolved further as I entered the CCD, becoming a member of the CML association for middle school and KCYM association for the high schools and above (both are exclusively available to CCD students.) I also became a part of the Jesus Youth movement, a spiritual tapestry woven with dedication and passion. I continued to attend charismatic prayer gatherings at the church every Friday evening, seeking a deeper connection with my faith.

One incident during my regency at a retreat center left an indelible mark on my soul. A mother arrived with her ailing child, suffering from vomiting and diarrhea. She implored me to offer a prayer for her child's recovery. Although I directed her to the retreat preacher, her insistence led me to offer a humble prayer. Two days later, she returned with gratitude, her child miraculously healed. This profound encounter illuminated the gift of healing bestowed upon me by the Divine.

I can unequivocally affirm that the benevolent presence of our Lord accompanies me on this sacred journey, providing me with the strength and guidance I require.



SAVE THE DATE: The Appreciation Dinner for the adult volunteers of Immaculate Conception and Good Shepherd Parishes is scheduled for Sunday, January 7, 2024 at Sand Springs Country Club, Drums. Registration information will be published in future parish bulletins.



Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

PARISH DAY OF EUCHARISTIC ADORATION – Part of our participation in the National Eucharistic Revival in St. John Bosco Parish will be an afternoon of Eucharistic Adoration. It will be held on Sunday, November 26th, beginning with a Choir Mass at 11:30 AM. Fr. Edward Michelini will be the Celebrant and Homilist. Immediately following the Mass, the Eucharist will be exposed on our Altar from 12:30-5:00 PM. If we can secure some parishioners from both of our Churches to assist, we will have light refreshments and social afterwards in our gym at 6:00 PM. Call the Parish office to volunteer to assist with the social at 570-836-3279.



The next Charismatic Mass and Healing Service at St. John Bosco Church, Conyngham will be Tuesday, November 28th at 7:00 PM. Fr. Edward Michelini will preside, and Fr. Sudhir Toppo will concelebrate. Sue Shaw will begin her music ministry at 6:45 PM. Any questions, please call Arlene at 570-788-3643.

OUR SEXUAL ABUSE POLICY IS AVAILABLE AT THE ENTRANCES OF OUR CHURCHES



Good Shepherd Church

The Thirtieth-Third Sunday of Ordinary Times

November 19, 2023

† MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK †

Saturday, November 18

6:00PM Michalene & Sylvester Grzymiski ~ Family

Sunday, November 19

8:00AM Fran Romeo – Pat & Fran Menighan

9:30AM Casmir Lasecki ~ Pat & Fran Menighan

Monday, November 20

8:00AM Dorothy Nitka ~ Mr. & Mrs. Leonard Chervino & Family

Tuesday, November 21

8:00 AM Theresa Pfeil ~ Mike & Jean Louise Gombeda

Wednesday, November 22

8:00AM Zelenak Family ~ Linda, Diane & Families

Thursday, November 23

9:00AM Louis J. Beltrami ~ Wife, Elaine

Friday, November 24

8:00AM Kathleen Carr ~ Bob & Cathy Penkala

Saturday, November 25

6:00PM Kathleen Ferdinand ~ Jim & Roxann Kapuschinsky


Sunday, November 26

8:00AM Natale G. Tambasco – Cousins, Kim & Bob Martin & Family

9:30AM Frank Skawinski ~ Wife, Anna & Family

Stewardship

November 11 & 12: Loose \$676; Offertory \$3,210; Dues \$843; Care & Education of Priests \$198; Holy Days \$15; Capital Improvement \$35; Campaign for Human Development \$47
Mass Attendance – 550

 The **Tabernacle Candle** burns this week for **Louis J. Beltrami** by Wife, Elaine



Tuesday Night Bingo: Come join us for Bingo at Good Shepherd Church on Tuesday evenings. The kitchen opens at **5:00PM** with special soups, sandwiches, beverages, ethnic foods and a variety of other goodies. Our Early Bird game begins at **6PM**.

Online Giving: Visit the parish website for more information or to sign up for online giving.

We welcome **Kevin, Nicole, Benjamin & Lucas Vito** and **Alfred & Anna Jean Onuschak** as our newest members.



The **Valley Food Pantry** helps those in need. We have been asked to collect items for children: canned pasta, cookies, crackers, and Pop Tarts, in addition to bar soap. If you wish to send a monetary donation, the address is: Valley Food Pantry, PO Box 187 CUCC, Conyngham, PA 18219.

The **Valley Food Pantry** has asked us to collect canned cranberry sauce for the Christmas. The deadline for donations is **Monday, December 11**. Please check expiration dates. *The staff of the Valley Food Pantry is very grateful for your donations and thanks you for your generosity!*

Signed copies of Father McHugh's poetry book, **Kaleidoscope of the Heart**, will be available for purchase in the church office for \$20.00 during normal business hours.

Advent Scripture Sessions on the Infancy Gospels: Rev. Connell A. McHugh, Pastor Emeritus of Good Shepherd will offer presentations on the Infancy Gospels of Luke and Matthew on Wednesday, November 29 and Wednesday, December 6 at 9AM in the parish hall. He will discuss the persons in the Infancy Narratives, the differences and similarities between Luke's and Matthew's versions and how the Infancy Gospels of Luke and Matthew fit the theology of their entire gospels. The Gospel Presentations are open to the community free of charge. Registration is preferred since notes will be provided. Call the parish office at 570-788-3141 to register.

Fall scripture sessions conclude on **Wednesday, November 19 at 9AM** with Father McHugh's presentations on the biblical miracles of Jesus and how miracles have been viewed throughout the centuries by different Christian Faiths.

Shepherds Hands November Sock Drive: We will be collecting new Men's, Women's, and Children's socks throughout the month of November for distribution at the Homeless Shelter and Soup Kitchen this winter. Please place your donations in the box in the back of the church.



Santa Needs Your Help: Our Breakfast with Santa will be held on Sunday, December 3, and donations of candy canes are needed. All donations can be dropped off under the table in the church vestibule or at the parish office. Santa thanks you for your generosity.