



# Immaculate Conception Parish

## First Sunday of Advent

### December 3, 2023



## Mass Intentions

FOR THE WEEK



Sat. 12/2 4:00 PM  
John Stefanik, Jr. by His Wife Kathy & Children

Sun. 12/3 11:00 AM  
Gary Zabretsky by Cindy Zabretsky and Children

Mon. 12/4 7:00 PM  
Bob Hludzik by Mary Ann

Tue. 12/5 7:00 AM  
Lucille Gaffney by Susie Hanusek

Wed. 12/6 7:00 AM  
Eleanor Gandarella by Her Husband Julius

Thur. 11/7 7:00 AM  
Anne Marie Ceriani by Ronald and Sheryl Hupczey

7:00 PM Vigil Mass  
Louis Durange, Sr. by His Wife Anna Marie

Fri. 12/8 7:00 AM  
Marie Shovlin by Dolores Repetz

Sat. 12/9 4:00 PM  
Margaret Blasko by Paula

Sun. 12/10 11:00 AM  
Mary Theresa Kopczynskie by Daniel Kopczynskie

**MEMORIAL DONATIONS in Memory of Ann Marie Della Croce: \$25 by Joann Zynel; \$25 by Emmett & Donna Nestor; Pat & John Herkalo**

**MEMORIAL DONATION in Memory of Mary Ann McGeehan: \$25 by Pat & John Herkalo**

**CANDLES ON THE ALTAR**  
**And OUR SACRISTY CANDLE**  
**are burning this week in Memory of Geroge and Verna Soltis by Mary**




### CHRISTMAS CARD ADDRESSES:

**Rev. Arun Lakra**                      **Rev. Rawel Toppo**  
**612 Hudson Street**                **5700 Bear Creek Blvd.**  
**Forest City, PA 18421**            **Bear Creek, PA 18602**



**GIVING TREE GIFTS are due on the altar by Sunday, December 17th. If you have not yet registered your gift tag with the parish office, please do so as soon as possible 570-636-3035. Feel free to leave a message.**



**This Friday, December 8th, is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Mother. This is a Holy Day of Obligation. The Vigil Mass is Thursday evening at 7:00 PM and the Feast Day Mass is Friday at 7:00 AM.**



**Weekend of November 18th and 19th:**

**Sunday \$4,326; Loose \$247; Dues \$1,582; Care and Education of Priests \$38; All Saints Day \$65; Human Development \$703.50; Capital Improvement \$257; Poor Box \$101**

**Last Weekend:**

**Sunday \$2,448; Loose \$281; Dues \$406; Care and Education of Priests \$26; All Saints Day \$25; Human Development \$40; Capital Improvement \$140; Poor Box \$175**



**Our Community/Service Team is requesting Canned sauerkraut, instant mashed potatoes, rice, and paper products this month. We thank all who support the needy families in our community.**





Jesus said to his disciples: "Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come."

These words from the opening lines of this weekend's Gospel are meant to move us to take stock of our lives. Take time to look at where you've been and where you are going. It would be so easy to relate these words to the coming of the Christ

Child. We know Jesus is coming (He's already here). God wants us to focus on changing those things in our lives that lead us away from Him.

So, let me challenge you this week. Our theme for the Advent Season is: **CHRIST BE OUT LIGHT**. Look for the Light! That term has a different meaning for each of us. Maybe a light display will awe us or a ray of sunlight will cause us to ponder. Look at the light of the moon or the stars shining at night. See the bright smile in your child's face or the warm glow of your spouse. Christ IS our light. Look for it this week.

**MANDATORY BAPTISMAL PREPARATION CLASS** will be at 6:00 PM on Thursday, January 11, 2024, in the St. Joseph Room at Good Shepherd Church. Please register by calling the Immaculate Conception Parish Office at 570-636-3035 or the Good Shepherd Parish Office at 570-788-3141. Please plan to attend the Baptismal Preparation class well in advance of your baby's birth so that you are aware of all the information necessary to schedule your baby's Baptism.



**A Holly Jolly Christmas Dinner Music Show.** All are invited to a delicious homestyle Christmas dinner and Music Show on Saturday, December 16th, from 5:00 - 8:00 PM. Dinner includes mashed & sweet potatoes, stuffing, vegetables, your choice of Turkey, Beef, Ham, or Haddock and homemade pumpkin pie or rice pudding. Coffee, tea, various



soft drinks are included. A Classic Christmas music show will show will feature our local musicians, Jack James on vocals and Frank Balon on trumpet. The dinner show will be at Woody's Restaurant, 632 Centre Street, Freeland. Tickets are \$25 which includes a gift certificate drawing and door prizes. Please phone (570) 636-3333.



**CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS FROM BOTH PARISHES:** If you are an adult and have volunteered for our parish for any event (bingo, picnic, festival, monthly breakfast, lector, extraordinary minister, Messenger of Hope just to name a few), you are invited to a **THANK YOU** dinner at Sands Springs on **SUNDAY, JANUARY 7TH, AT 2:00 PM.**

This is an **ADULT ONLY DINNER.** Your spouse (if not a volunteer) is welcome to come at a cost of \$25.00. We so value all of you who work to make our parishes a welcoming community. **DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS IS DECEMBER 29TH.** Please clip and fill out the coupon below so that we know how many will be attending. We look forward to seeing all of you on the 8th of January.

Volunteer: \_\_\_\_\_ **FREE**

Spouse: \_\_\_\_\_ **\$25.00**

**Drop in the collection basket or at the office.**

On Friday, December 8th, the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This feast is a **HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION** for dioceses in the United States. On this feast, we celebrate Mary's conception free from the stain of Original Sin, and we recognize that Mary's life began the moment she was conceived in the womb of St. Anne. So, too, does every human life begin at the moment of fertilization, when it is lovingly knit together by God the Father.



The **VOICE of JOHN** ministry will hold its annual Christmas Card Sale the weekends of November 26th and December 3rd. Cards are \$20 per pack of 15 cards, available in the foyer of the church. All proceeds will be used for our educational efforts, age specific programs for grades K through adult.

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



# Good Shepherd Church

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#### † MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK †

**Saturday, December 2**

**6:00PM** Alexander Martin ~ Mom, Dad, Rob & Desiree

**Sunday, December 3**

**8:00AM** Daniel & Brigida Zola – Daughter, Anna Skawinski, Grandchildren & Great Grandchildren

**9:30AM** John & Dolores Ratchko ~ The Family

**Monday, December 4**

**8:00AM** Anthony Russo & Esther ~ Granddaughters, Tina & Amy

**Tuesday, December 5**

**8:00 AM** Bernard Stratchko ~ Wife, Cathy

**Wednesday, December 6**

**8:00AM** Health & Blessing for Rose Marie & George Matusick ~ Andrea

**Thursday, December 7**

**8:00AM** Mary L. Wood ~ Elaine Beltrami

**Friday, December 8**

**8:00AM** Sofia Manfredi ~ Family

**Saturday, December 9**

**6:00PM** Michael & Lena Formica ~ Mr. & Mrs. Richard Stanek

**Sunday, December 10**

**8:00AM** John Rusnock Jr. – Mother, Joan Michalochick

**9:30AM** Robert Monkoski (6<sup>th</sup> Anniversary) ~ Mom, Dad, Sister & Brother

#### Stewardship

**November 18 & 19:** Loose \$523; Offertory \$3,616; Dues \$1,575; Care & Education of Priests \$60; Holy Days \$64; Easter \$10; Christmas \$95; Flowers \$17; Capital Improvement \$301; Campaign for Human Development \$592; Retired Religious \$10  
Mass Attendance – 507

**November 25 & 26:** Loose \$847; Offertory \$3,956; Dues \$600; Care & Education of Priests \$15; Holy Days \$25; Christmas \$20; Flowers \$55; Capital Improvement \$40; Campaign for Human Development \$50; Mass Attendance – 528



The **Tabernacle Candle** burns this week for **Deceased Members of Frederick R. Proske Family** by Allison Quinn



**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**.



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.



**Breakfast with Mr. & Mrs. Santa** is this **Sunday, December 3**, at Good Shepherd Church Hall. The menu includes sausage, bacon, eggs to order, potatoes, pancakes, pastry, yogurt, orange juice, coffee, tea, and chocolate milk. The cost is \$9.00/adult and \$4.00/child. Serving time is from 8 AM until 11PM.

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