

November 30, 2014  
First Sunday  
of Advent

*“Feed The Hungry,  
Clothe The Naked,*



*Shelter The Homeless,  
Love One Another ....”*

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH  
HOLY REDEEMER CHURCH  
PARISH OFFICE  
605 Luzerne Avenue  
West Pittston, PA 18643  
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Msgr John J. Sempa, PASTOR  
Rev. Mr. Peter Hoegen, DEACON  
Mrs. Joyce Cecconi, PASTORAL ASSOCIATE  
Mr. James Meizanis, DEACON CANDIDATE  
Mr. James Rose, DEACON CANDIDATE

**WEEKEND CELEBRATION  
OF THE EUCHARIST**  
Sat 4:00PM Immaculate Conception  
Sat 5:30PM Holy Redeemer  
Sun 7:30AM Immaculate Conception  
Sun 9:00AM Holy Redeemer  
Sun 10:30AM Immaculate Conception

**WEEKDAY CELEBRATION  
OF THE EUCHARIST**  
7:30AM - Immaculate Conception  
8:30AM - Holy Redeemer

**CONFESSION SATURDAYS**  
3:00PM - 3:30PM  
Immaculate Conception

**EUCHARISTIC ADORATION**  
WEDNESDAYS 9:00AM - 3:00PM

### Parish Mission Statement

To promote and improve the community of God by living the Gospel message; caring for the elderly, youth, sick, needy, and participating in the liturgy.

**Weekly Collection**  
**\$8,058.55**

# CORPUS CHRISTI PARISH

www.corpuschristinepa.com

To follow the readings in your Gather book, please see #992

### Diocesan Annual Appeal

**Our Parish Goal is \$32,000... Pledges received.... \$30,185. (\$1,815)**

### Feast of the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

December 8th is a holy day of obligation. The Masses are as follows: Sunday, December 7th 6:00PM @ Holy Redeemer and Monday December 8th 8:30AM @ HR, 7:30AM, and 6:00PM at Immaculate Conception.

### **Advent: Why Do We Wait?**

Advent is a season of preparation: we shop for gifts, plan parties, and decorate our homes for the coming of Christmas. Sometimes it is easy to forget the real mission of Advent: preparing our hearts for the coming of Jesus Christ. We are bombarded by commercial messages in which the reason for Christmas—Emmanuel, “God with us”—is absent or overlooked. However, the rituals and practices of our Catholic liturgies during this season can join us together with the People of God. United, we can offer messages of challenge and hope and express our desire for God’s presence in our midst.

We wait for the coming of Christ in human history at Bethlehem, in our hearts each day, and at the end of time. The readings of Advent direct us to be prepared as we “do not know the hour or the day” of Christ’s coming. But it is the present to which we should give our attention. Christ comes to us each day in word and sacrament, in prayer and grace, and through the people of his Church. Can we try to be aware of his presence and power within our lives? Can we be open to his call and let him work through us in the world?

What is the message of Advent? For what are we waiting? Maranatha! Come, Lord Jesus! Help us to know you, love you, and serve you. Increase our faith. Help us understand. Let us be your eyes, ears, and hands on earth. Let us show your love. Come!

### **Mary’s Baby Shower**

**Monday, December 8, 2014**

**Immediately following the 6:00PM Mass  
Immaculate Conception Church Hall**

In honor of the Feast of the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the blessed Virgin Mary, all are welcome to join us for an evening of sharing during this Advent season. We will enjoy a light supper and some Advent reflections presented by Deacon candidate, Jim Rose. Please RSVP to jimrose12@gmail.com or 570-650-5278 by Sunday, December 7th. Those attending are asked to bring a “new” clothing item for infants 0 to 3 months. These items will be donated to St. Joseph’s Center in Scranton where they will become part of their “New Blessing” bag which is given to expectant mothers for their newborns.

### **The Giving Tree “The Beauty is in its Bareness”**

Our annual Giving Trees, located in the sanctuaries of the churches, are beautifully decorated with hundreds of gift tags. On the back of each tag, you will find a “family number” and suggested gift wishes from children residing in our own neighborhoods and towns. Simply choose a tag (s), purchase a gift, wrap it, attach the tag and return it under the Giving Tree. To allow us ample time to sort and distribute the gifts, all gifts must be returned by **Sunday, December 14th**. *(Each family is issued an identifying number which is written on the gift tag....that is how we know to whom the gift belongs....so please be sure to put that identifying number on every gift).*

We realize these are challenging economic times, but we hope you will be able to come through again for us like you always do. With your help, our Social Concerns Committee will be helping approximately 60 families this holiday season. These families are one of us, they are your neighbors, their children attend school with your children, and have the same Christmas wishes as your children. Many of them were referred to us for Christmas help by their teachers, fellow parishioners and friends. A special thank you to our CCD students for making the beautiful tags for our Giving Trees.

### Christmas Food "Gift Baskets"

Our Social Concerns Committee will be preparing Christmas food "gift baskets" which will be given, along with the gifts from the giving tree to approximately 60 families we are helping for Christmas this year. We will provide them with the fixins for a festive Christmas dinner. If you would like to help, we will gladly accept monetary donations, frozen turkeys or gift certificates for turkeys or **ANY** non perishable foods including stuffing, cranberry sauce, boxed or canned yams, potatoes, gravy, vegetables, fruit, canned pumpkin and pie crust mix. Don't forget supplies for baking...flour, sugar, chocolate chips, etc, etc,. Surely many of these families would enjoy baking with their children!! Please leave donations in church vestibules or drop off at the rectory. Thank You!!

### Thank You for your Kindness

Many thanks for your generosity to our Thanksgiving food basket program. We were able to help 50 families with large food baskets for Thanksgiving. The majority of families were from our parish and local area. **St. Francis of Assisi said "Preach the Gospel at all times and when necessary use words." On behalf of our parish community, our Social Concerns Ministry did just that....we were able to preach the gospel message of Jesus by helping to feed those in need. May the Lord continue to bless our parish.**

### Our "Stocking Stuffer Lottery" is back better than ever!!!

During the months of January, February, and March, each ticket holder has the opportunity to win **\$50 Monday thru Friday, \$100 on Saturday & Sunday, and 6 bonus days with payouts of \$500.00 each.** If you would like more tickets, just stop by or call the rectory. They make great gifts!! Tickets not returned by December 22<sup>nd</sup> will be reissued. As always, thank you for your support of this important parish fundraiser.

### Christmas Wafers

Christmas wafers are available in the vestibules of the churches for a donation for a pack of 4 wafers.

### Daily Reflections for Advent & Christmas

Complimentary copies of these daily reflections for Advent and Christmas which was created by the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary of Scranton, Pa. are in the vestibules of the churches. Please take one home today.

### Autumn Treasure Lottery Winners

Nov 20	Marie Stemier	#179	\$50.00
Nov 21	Dianna Capone	#798	\$50.00
Nov 22	No Winner	#788	\$50.00
Nov 23	Ann Kozloski	#543	\$100.00
Nov 24	No Winner	#454	\$50.00
Nov 25	Janice Wienckoski	#111	\$50.00
Nov 26	No Winner	#635	\$50.00

A drawing will be held to determine winners, for November 22nd, 24th, and 26th.

### Confirmation Class

Don't forget to visit the Confirmation Blog @ <http://corpuschristiconfirmation.wordpress.com/> and follow what the young men and women of the confirmation class are doing. Keep these young men and women in your prayers as they prepare themselves to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. Confirmandi prayer cards can be found in baskets in the churches.

### Holy Family Candle at ICC

which will burn this week in loving memory of **Nancy McGuire** is donated by Ron & Cathy Collins.

### Vigil Candle at HR

which will burn this week in loving memory of **Robert Brown, Sr. & Robert Brown Jr.** is donated by their family.

### CCD & Confirmation Classes

There are no classes today, Sunday, November 30th. Both CCD and Confirmation classes will resume next Sunday, December 7th.

### West Pittston Tree Lighting Ceremony

All are welcome to join the town, local officials, and Mr & Mrs Claus on Wednesday, December 3rd at the corner of Luzerne and Wyoming Avenue as we light the town Christmas tree. Festivities start at 7:00PM and tree lighting will take place at 8:00PM.

### Winter Coat Drive

The Culture Club of Misericordia in partnership with Wyoming Area Key Club is holding a coat drive for our friends in need in our communities. No one deserves to be cold in the brutal winter of Northeastern Pennsylvania. Any and all donations are greatly appreciated. If you can help please bring your clean, gently used, or new coats, jackets, snow suits, etc. and leave them in the boxes in the vestibules of the churches.

<b>Mass Intentions</b>	
<b>December 1st thru December 7th</b>	
<b>Mon</b>	7:30AM <b>Pauline &amp; Anthony Aufiero</b> by James & Joanne English
	8:30AM <b>Elizabeth Wierbowski</b> by Marisue & Mike
<b>Tues</b>	7:30AM <b>Joseph Mikita</b> by Family
	8:30AM <b>Ursula Danoski</b> by Ed & Mary Godri
<b>Wed</b>	7:30AM <b>Dena DelSerra</b> by Dante & Gloria Bovani & Family
	8:30AM <b>Donald Davidson</b> by Michael Dziak, Jr.
<b>Thur</b>	7:30AM <b>Dena Chiumento</b> by Judy Sokach & Family
	8:30AM <b>Martin Cirelli, Sr.</b> by Family
<b>Fri</b>	7:30AM <b>Eleanor Musto</b> by Mary Margaret & Bill Lesho
	8:30AM <b>Charles Foy</b> by daughter, Mary & Family
<b>Sat</b>	4:00PM <b>Jane &amp; Francis Stets</b> by Wilbur & Mary Dotter
	5:30PM <b>Matthew &amp; Viola Michels</b> by Family
<b>Sun</b>	7:30AM <b>Jennie Champi</b> by Roxanne Foy
	9:00AM <b>Michael &amp; Christopher Kozloski</b> <b>Frank Poluski</b> by Family
	10:30AM <b>John Paul, Evelyn &amp; John Gardner</b> by Chet, Donna and Family
	6:00PM <b>Irene White</b> by M/M Joseph DeSanto