



Mission Statement

We as members of the Body of Christ, through our thoughts, words and deeds, celebrate the presence of God in all people. As a community of believers, we answer Christ's call to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, shelter the homeless and love one another.

December 6, 2015

Second Sunday in Advent

Immaculate Conception Church

Holy Redeemer Church Parish Office

605 Luzerne Avenue

West Pittston, PA 18643

Phone (570) 654-2753

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Msgr. John J. Sempa, Pastor

Mr. James Meizanis, Deacon

Mrs. Joyce Cecconi,

Pastoral Associate

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

Saturday 3:00PM - 3:30PM

Immaculate Conception

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Wednesdays 9:00AM - 3:00PM

Holy Redeemer

December 6, 2015

To follow the readings in your

Gather book: 993

Gathering **#395 O Come O Come Emmanuel**

Responsorial Psalm - **#996**

Offertory **#418 On Jordan's Bank**

Communion **#939 Behold the Lamb**

Recessional **#395 O Come O Come Emmanuel**

Weekly Collection

November 29, 2015

\$7,370.16

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Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

This is a holy day of obligation, therefore Mass will be celebrated at Holy Redeemer on Monday, December 7th at 6:00PM and on Tuesday, **December 8th at 9:00AM (please note time change)** and at Immaculate Conception on Tuesday, December 8th at 7:30AM and 6:00PM.

Second Collection Next Weekend

In the United States today, there are more than 33,000 senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests. Many of them worked tirelessly in Catholic schools, hospitals, and agencies usually for little to no pay. Your gift to next week's Retirement Fund for Religious Collection helps provide medications, nursing care and much more.

Thank-you from Deacon Jim Meizanis

It is with deep and heartfelt appreciation to the people of this wonderful parish for making my Ordination weekend celebration such a beautiful and meaningful experience.

Know that all of you were an extremely important part of my formation for the Diaconate. All of your support and prayers for the 4 ½ years meant so much to me. Please continue to pray for me in my ministry here at Corpus Christi.

I personally want to extend my deep appreciation to Monsignor Sempa and the entire reception committee for working so hard to make the Mass of Thanksgiving and reception so wonderful.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart to all of you for either attending the Ordination Mass, Mass of Thanksgiving and reception, offering of best wishes and prayers, or for the cards that I received. Your participation in the weekend events made it extra special.

I will remember all of you in my prayers. May Almighty God bless you for all of your kindness a hundred-fold!

Love, Deacon Jim Meizanis

Thank-you from Deacon Jim Rose

There are no words to fully thank you for your kindness, support, friendship, generosity and prayers during the last four years and especially last weekend as my class and I were ordained to the permanent diaconate. All of this has been a wonderful experience for me and it was made even more so because of all of you.

Our Mass of Thanksgiving and the reception afterwards were beautiful. So many of you volunteered your time and energy to making both perfect and you succeeded!

Thank you very much! I will keep praying for all of you!

Deacon Jim Rose

Social Concerns News

■**The Giving Tree** Located in the sanctuaries of the churches, beautifully decorated with hundreds of gift tags are our parish "giving trees". On the back of each tag, you will find a "family number" and gift wishes from children/teenagers. You may notice this year we have included our parishioners who are homebound and those residing in nursing homes. Simply choose a tag (s), purchase a gift, wrap it, attach the tag and return it under the Giving Tree. It is very important you securely attach the tag with the family number to each gift. All gifts must be returned by **Sunday, December 20th**.

We realize these are challenging economic times, but we hope you will be able to come through again for us as you always do. With your help, our Social Concerns Committee will be helping approximately 90 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.

■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 **80** families we are helping for Christmas this year. We hope to provide them with the fixins for a festive Christmas dinner. If you would like to help, we will gladly accept monetary donations, frozen turkeys, hams or gift certificates from grocery stores. We will be accepting donations of all non perishable foods. Please check the weekly store ads and pick up whatever is on sale. These families are most appreciative of whatever foods they get. Don't forget items for baking...flour, sugar, chocolate chips, etc. Many of these families would enjoy baking Christmas cookies together. Please leave donations in church vestibules or drop off at the rectory. Thank You!!

■Christmas Cookie Challenge

As we continue to communicate with those of you who religiously visit our parishioners who are homebound and residing in nursing homes, it is overwhelmingly evident they all love the visits and any little gifts we give them. Overwhelmingly, they love their sweets but especially home baked goodies. We are therefore reaching out to those of you who like to bake. Perhaps when you are doing your Christmas baking, you can bake a few dozen extra and drop them off at the rectory or church hall no later than Thursday, December 17th. Questions? Call Joyce 570-654-2573

Advent Penance Service

Will be held on Monday, December 21st at 7:00PM at St. John the Evangelist Parish, William Street, Pittston.

Childrens Share-a-Stocking Program

We invite ALL children in our religious education & confirmation program, the homeschooled and those attending Catholic School to take part in this project. During class this week, each child will be given a Christmas stocking. They are asked to fill it with Christmas treats and bring it back on Sunday, December 20. Additional stockings will be available in the vestibules of the churches for children who do not attend classes and for anyone else who would like to help.

Visit with Santa
Sunday, December 20th
9:15 to 10:30AM
Immaculate Conception Hall

Santa will be here to collect the filled Christmas stockings so he can deliver them to some less fortunate children. Refreshments will be served. All are welcome!

“Jackpot Jingle” Lottery

To those of you who received this lottery ticket and are not going to purchase it, please return it in the collection or mail to the rectory asap. Some like to purchase the tickets for Christmas gifts and we only have a few left.

Youth Group Meeting & Wreath Sale

Our youth group will meet today, Sunday, December 6th at 7:00PM in ICC hall. All boys and girls in 6th grade and older are invited to attend. The members will be selling live Christmas wreaths after all masses. Donation is \$10.00 per wreath.

Youth Choir Practice

Will be held tonight, Sunday, December 6th at **6:30PM** (please note time change) in IC Church

Christmas Wafers

Are available in the vestibules of the churches. Donation is \$2.00 for a pack of 4 wafers.

Night at the Races

Save the date! Our annual Night at the Races will be held on **Saturday, February 6, 2016** in Immaculate Conception Church hall! All are welcome to join us for a planning meeting on **Sunday, December 13th at 11:30AM in the rectory.**

Lost & Found

A cell phone was found in church last week. If it could be yours, call or stop by the rectory.

Autumn Treasure Lottery Winners

11/25/15	No Winner	#608	\$50.00
11/26/15	No Winner	#065	\$500.00
11/27/15	No Winner	#472	\$50.00
11/28/15	No Winner	#442	\$50.00
11/29/15	Ashley Aritz	#034	\$100.00
11/30/15	Jessica Speicher	#865	\$50.00
12/01/15	N. Coskey	#223	\$50.00
12/02/15	Nick Anzelmi	#026	\$50.00

Special drawing winners include: Patrick Deguglielmo \$50 11/25, Tony Petcavage \$500 11/26, Stephen Hoover \$50 11/27, Mary Oliveri \$50 11/28.

Holy Family Candle at ICC Which will burn this week in loving memory of **Rose Bone & David Kristunas** is donated by Pat & Georgia Bone

Altar Family Candles at ICC Which will burn this week in loving memory of **David Stankoski** are donated by his mom and dad.

Vigil Family Candle at ICC Which will burn this week in loving memory of **Leonard & Helen Brown & Geraldine Serafin** is donated by their family

Christmas & New Year’s Mass Schedule
Christmas Eve, December 24, 2015
4:00PM ICC Family Mass
5:30PM HR.....10:00PM ICC
Christmas Day, December 25, 2015
7:30Am ICC.....9:00AM HR.....10:30AM ICC
New Year’s Eve, December 31, 2015
4:00PM ICC.....5:30PM HR
New Year’s Day, January 1, 2016
9:00AM ICC

Mass Intentions December 7 thru December 13, 2015		
Mon	7:30AM	Anthony & Carrie Luczak by son, Anthony & Elizabeth Luczak
	8:30AM	Martin Pleban by Patricia Ginocchetti
	HR 6:00PM	Carl Zekoski by M/M Frank Nocito
Tues	7:30AM	Dec’d Members of Grasso & Kurent Families by family
	HR 9:00AM	Walter Repasky by Norbert Katarsky
	ICC 6:00PM	Jack & Carmella Salvaggio by children & grandchildren
Wed	7:30AM	Joseph S. Angolino, Sr. by Mary Ann Zezza
	8:30AM	Matthew & Viola Michels by family
	Thur 7:30AM	Florence & William Pilkonis by family
Fri	8:30AM	John “Beno” Borzell by mom, dad & sister
	7:30AM	Teresa Montante by sons & family
	8:30AM	Margaret Nocito by M/M Frank Parra
Sat	4:00PM	Leonard & Helen Brown & Geraldine Serafin by John & Maryellen Serafin
	5:30PM	Thomas Romanoski, Sr. by Sam & Nancy Farinella
	Sun 7:30AM	Mary Ann O’Boyle by Joe & Marie O’Boyle
Sun	9:00AM	Ron Musto by Rita & Leo Morgan
	10:30AM	Dominic K & Lucy Occhiato by family