



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

Inviting ~ Uniting ~ Igniting

720 Liberty Street
Clarion, Pennsylvania 16214

Mass Schedule

Saturday Evening - 4:00 p.m.

Sunday Morning - 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

Holy Days - 8:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.

Weekdays - Consult the bulletin or phone the parish office

Church & School

814-226-8433

Parish Staff

Rev. Jason Feigh
Pastor

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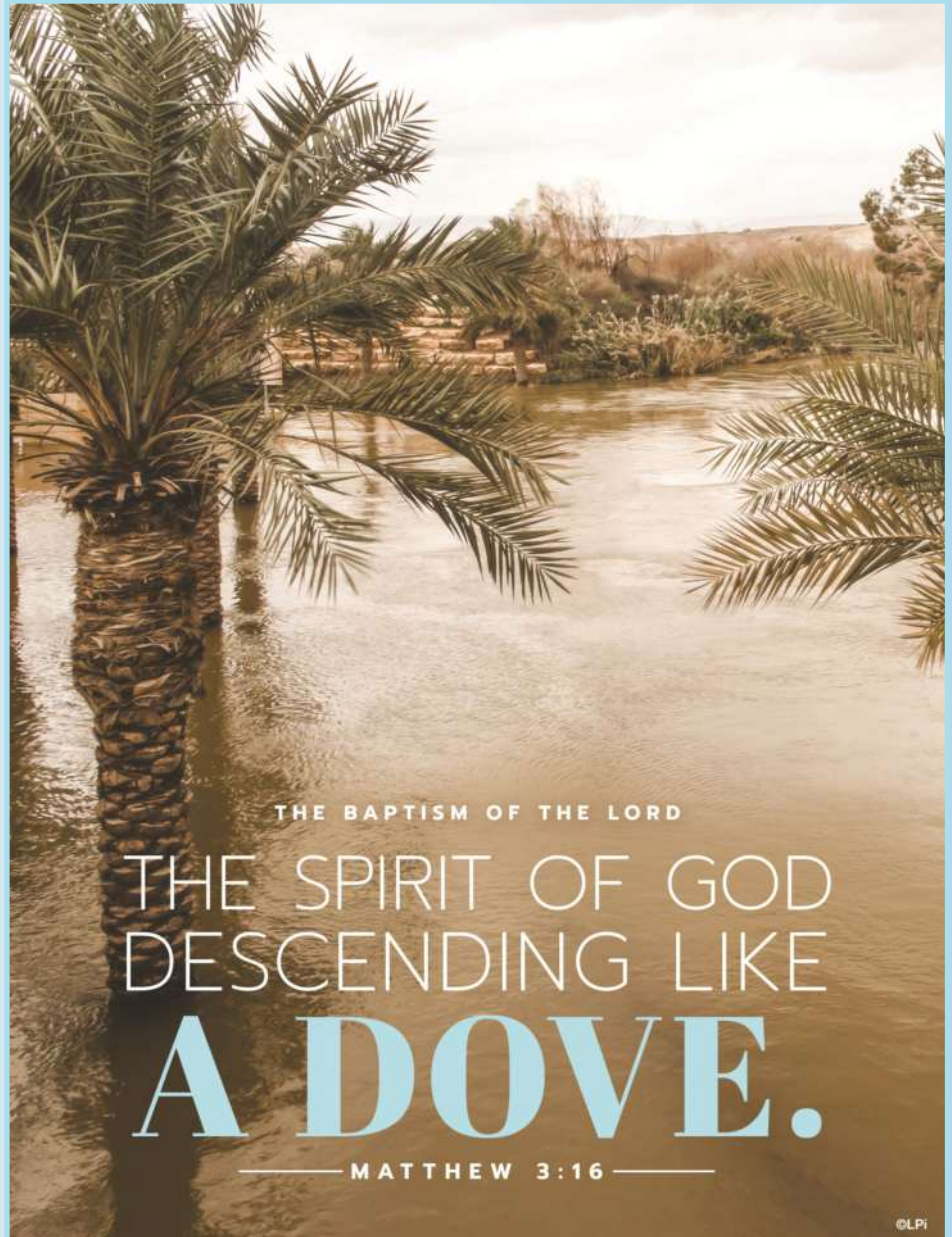
Laura Lauer
Principal
llauer@clarionichawks.net

Greg Pedley
Buildings & Grounds Manager
gpedley@clarionichawks.net

Parish Membership

Membership includes active participation in the sacramental life of the Church, involvement in the activities of the faith community and financial support of the parish.

New members are welcome to register by calling the parish office.



THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

THE SPIRIT OF GOD
DESCENDING LIKE
A DOVE.

— MATTHEW 3:16 —

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK FOR FAITH SHARING

The Baptism of the Lord

Pleasing to God

And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." (Luke 3:2)

Adults: Do you think that God was "well pleased" by your actions in recent weeks? Why?

Kids: What good thing could you do this week that would be pleasing to God?

RESPONSIBILITY OF A GODPARENT

Question: As the godfather for my niece, what must I do as she grows up? Are there specific responsibilities I have?

Answer:

The biggest responsibility you have as a godparent is to set a good example of practicing faith. Receiving the sacraments and taking an active part in your parish teaches by deed and shows your godchild how to live a life of faith. Next to the child's parents, your role can be one of great influence in her religious formation and education.

What else can you do? A special remembrance on the day the child was baptized can highlight its importance. As the child grows older, discussions about God, Jesus, matters of faith, and the parish provide opportunities to share your own beliefs and practices. Celebrate first Penance, first Communion, and Confirmation as key moments in your godchild's faith journey. Parents and godparents share in this responsibility in a unique and special way. Your obligations do not end with the ceremony of Baptism, but are just the beginning.



CHILD PROTECTION AND

CREATING SAFE ENVIRONMENTS – January is Human Trafficking Prevention Month. In 2024, the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children received over 27,800 reports of possible child sex trafficking. The average age of child sex trafficking victims is 15 years old. Child sex trafficking is child abuse. It occurs when a minor is advertised, solicited, or exploited through a commercial sex act - where sex is exchanged for money, food, shelter, drugs, or anything of value. Traffickers can be family members (even parents), friends, gangs, foster parents, trusted adults or boyfriends. Talk openly with your child about this reality and build resiliency. Address myths that glamorize the commercial sex industry. Warn about online risks: social media and gaming platforms are used by traffickers to target, groom, and recruit victims. Prepare your child: at some point they will likely encounter inappropriate messages or harmful content online. Teach them how to respond safely. Report suspected child sex trafficking by calling 1-800-843-5678 or visit CyberTipline.org. For additional resources visit www.eriecd.org/childprotection/

GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

Apple ran a commercial not long ago called "Behind the Mac – Greatness." It shows artists and creators, such as Kendrick Lamar, Billie Eilish, and Lady Gaga, working behind their MacBooks. The narration says, "There's a certain kind of person who doesn't wait for greatness. They make it." It's a compelling message. There's beauty in using our gifts with passion and purpose. But there lies a hidden weight in that idea: If you are what you make, what happens when you can't anymore? When the project fails, the passion fades, or the spotlight moves on, where is greatness then?

Today's Gospel offers a differing vision of greatness. Jesus steps into the Jordan River. He hasn't preached, healed, or performed a single miracle. Then the heavens open, and the Father speaks: "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased." It's not a reward for success. It's not earned. Before he does anything "great," Jesus receives the greatness of his identity from the Father.

And so do you. At your baptism, God said the same thing over you: "You are my beloved." That is your true identity, not constructed or earned but received. When we see ourselves and others this way, everything changes for the better. We discover a greatness that can never be taken away.



This week, reflect on your baptism: look up the date, thank God for it, pray for those baptized with you, or visit the church where it happened. Let your identity be rooted there.

— Father John Muir

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Virtues, Explained! Joy

Though it is often used as a synonym for happiness, joy has far more to do with the choices we make than the emotions we feel.

Joy is the experience of achieving what we most desire — and what we most desire is love. God made us in love and for love, and so, in the same way that a flower seeks the sunlight, our souls seek the warmth of true, selfless love. The virtue of joy, therefore, is a fruit of the virtue of love, or charity (CCC 1829).

"We are meant to have our human joys: the joy of living, the joy of love and friendship, the joy of work well done," said Saint Pope John Paul II. "We who are Christians have a further cause for joy: like Jesus, we know that we are loved by God our Father. This love transforms our lives and fills us with joy."



SPECIAL INTENTIONS – Please contact the church office with any Mass Intentions that you would like to have offered as soon as you can. They can be in memory of someone, in honor of someone or for a just need. Keep in mind that they are published.

Also, you may offer the Sanctuary Candle to be lit for a week at a time for the same type of intention as mentioned above. Donations of \$10 for a regular mass or the sanctuary candle and \$45 for a radio mass are appreciated.

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - LESSONS FROM BAPTIZING A FROG

By Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

I used to lead an RCIA session on baptism, where I would bring in my Kermit the Frog toy from when I was a child and pretend to baptize it. It was a session I especially made sure I led when we had children preparing for Easter sacraments. You would think Kermit would have become super holy having been baptized so many times, year after year. But, if he had been real, he would not have been any holier due to multiple baptisms than he was after the first baptism. He couldn't be re-baptized. (Not to mention, of course, he is a FROG.)

When Jesus came to John for baptism, he transformed the baptism of repentance that John was practicing into a baptism of redemption. And although we are called to repentance over and over in our life, redemption comes to us only once. We cannot get baptized again in the Jordan or Sea of Galilee because of romantic notions, or come into the Catholic Church by a second baptism so we can start all over. Our baptism, whether we can remember it or not, is a one-time deal. But it is the real deal. Whether you feel it or not, you are sealed for Christ, and the stain of original sin has been washed away.

Too many of us take that moment for granted. Yes, you may have been baptized as an infant. But much time has passed since then, and you can work to understand the impact that it had on your life. We sometimes look for a good time to begin living a stewardship way of life. However, that time already passed, and God has been waiting. We are called to reflect on our baptism and respond to the call it has placed on our lives. We can respond and be disciples, or we can be like Kermit the Frog, always searching for a new start that never comes.

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THE FOOD PANTRY – Please think of the food pantry sponsored by Community Action while doing your regular grocery shopping. During January, the focus is on **Soap, Shampoo, Sponges, Tooth Paste, and Tooth Brushes.** As always, other

donations are welcome. Cereal, pasta, spaghetti sauce, canned fruit, peanut butter, soup, canned meats and canned vegetables need to be replenished regularly. Your gifts may be placed in the designated containers in the lobby of the church. Thank you for your generosity and continued support!

MASS Intentions

Monday, January 12

7:30 a.m. Harold and Patty Rapp

Tuesday, January 13 – Saint Hilary

8:30 a.m. Dennis Wagner (Lewis and Cathy Wagner)

Wednesday, January 14

— NO MASS —

Thursday, January 15

8:30 a.m. Don Kahle (Rose Marie Kahle and Family)

Friday, January 16

7:30 a.m. Steve Santus (Jim and Mary Lou Delaney)

Saturday, January 17 – Saint Anthony

3:00 p.m. to 3:40 p.m. CONFESSIONS

4:00 p.m. Father Monty Sayers (I.C. Faculty and Staff)

Sunday, January 18 – Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30 a.m. In Honor of Joan Breniman in celebration of her 100th Birthday

(Jayne and Kevin Beichner)

8:30 a.m. **RADIO MASS** – Deceased Members of the Richard and Helen Wolbert Family (The Family)

11:00 a.m. For the People

Readings for the week of January 11, 2026

Monday: 1 Sm 1:1-8/Ps 116:12-13, 14-17, 18-19

/Mk 1:14-20

Tuesday: 1 Sm 1:9-20/1 Sam 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abed

/Mk 1:21-28

Wednesday: 1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20/Ps 40:2 and 5, 7-8a, 8b-9, 10/Mk 1:29-39

Thursday: 1 Sm 4:1-11/Ps 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25

/Mk 1:40-45

Friday: 1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a/Ps 89:16-17, 18-19/Mk 2:1-12

Saturday: 1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a/Ps 21:2-3, 4-5, 6-7

/Mk 2:13-17

Next Sunday: Is 49:3, 5-6/Ps 40:2 and 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10

/1 Cor 1:1-3/Jn 1:29-34



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