



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

jfeigh@eriercd.org

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Linda Summerville
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Erica Smerker
School Office Coordinator
esmerker@clarionichawks.net

Greg Pedley
Buildings & Grounds Manager
gpedley@clarionichawks.net

Parish Membership

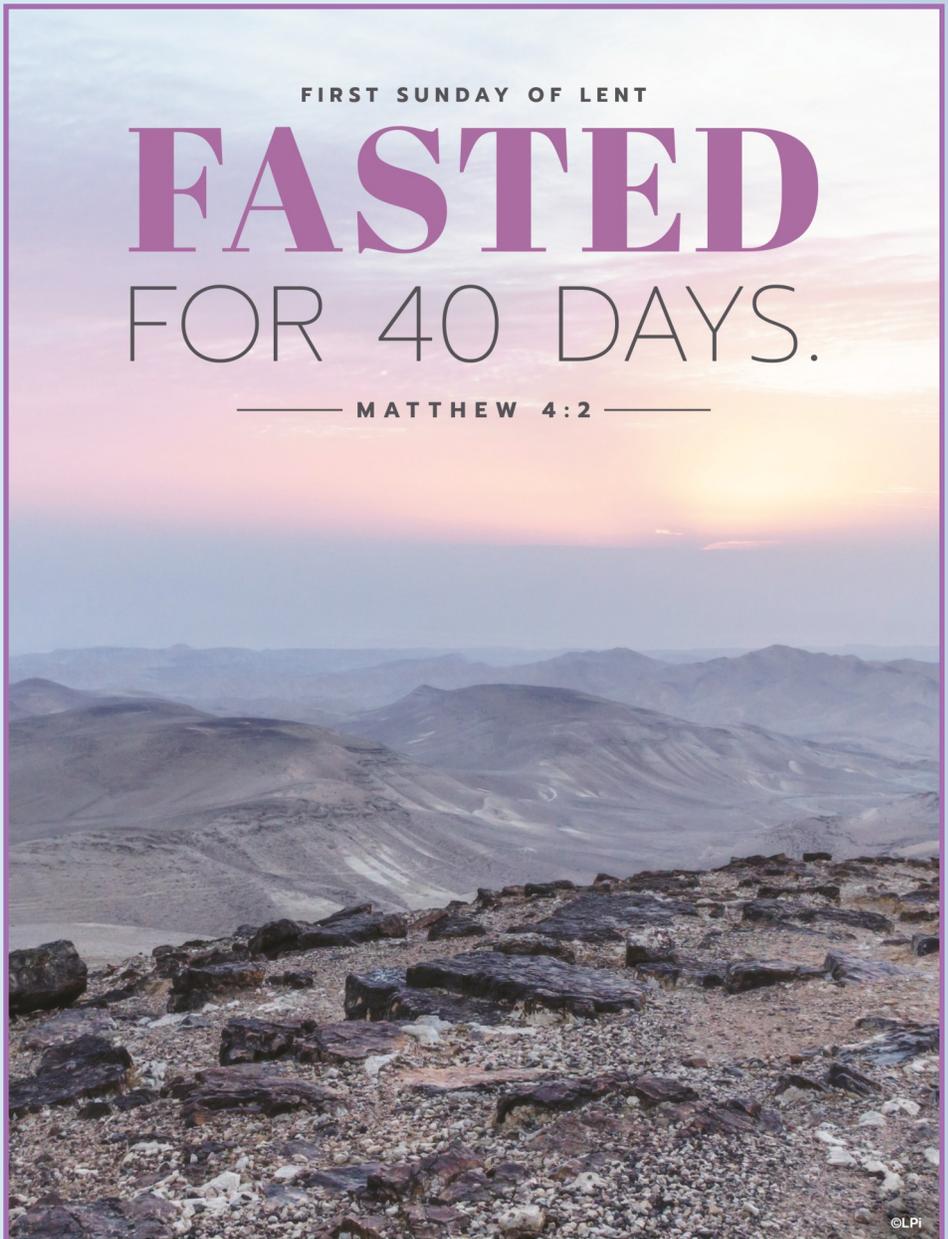
Membership includes active participation in the sacramental life of the Church, involvement in the activities of the faith community and financial support of the parish.

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

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

FASTED FOR 40 DAYS.

— MATTHEW 4:2 —



(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Into the Desert

When we first got married, I wanted to know everything my husband was thinking, exactly when he was thinking it.

Thirteen years later, I still want to know it all. But I want to know it after he's had a snack.

I think he still wants to know what I'm thinking, too. But he wants to know it after I've had 10 minutes without hearing the word, "Mommy!"

Life has taught us, you see, that it's hard to be a good person, a nice person, a gentle person, when your body doesn't feel good or nice or gentle. When you're hungry. When you're exhausted. When you're anxious.

It's not impossible, of course. It's just ... *hard*.

We're entering a penitential season, a time in which we purposefully deprive ourselves in certain ways. During Lent, we intentionally enter into the desert of physical hunger and weakness. Why, in preparation for Easter and in an effort to spiritually purify ourselves, do we go to this place where it's so hard to be good? Why do we go to the desert?

Because Christ has shown us that the desert is where decisions are made.

There are many reasons why the Word became flesh to accomplish God's plan for our salvation. But I think one of the most important reasons must have been that God wanted to show us that He knows, intimately, how easily the devil exploits our physical experience of this world. We see it in today's Gospel: Jesus, hungry and weary. Jesus, taunted and tempted.

We see him. We recognize him. We are him.

And we hear his voice, even though it trembles with fatigue: "Get away, Satan!"

Today, we enter the desert. Because the desert is where decisions are made.

©LPi

LENTEN PRACTICES – *We are reminded by our bishop and diocese: "The season of Lent begins this year on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 18, 2026, and concludes when the Paschal Triduum of the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of the Lord begins at the start of the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday, April 2, 2026.*

Traditional Lenten practices of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, and other forms of self-denial, are recommended most warmly by the church. Daily Mass is particularly encouraged.

Ash Wednesday, all Fridays in Lent, and Good Friday are days of abstinence from eating meat for those 14 years of age and older. Ash Wednesday and Good Friday also are days of fasting for those ages 18 to 58 inclusive. (On these days, those bound by the law of fasting may take one full meal. Two smaller meals, sufficient to maintain strength according to one's needs, are also permitted. Eating between meals is not permitted, but liquids including milk and fruit juices are allowed. When health or work is seriously affected, the law does not oblige.)"

2026 CATHOLIC SERVICES APPEAL – A sincere thank you to all who made a pledge and/or gift to the Catholic Services Appeal. Your faithful commitment allows us to live out the mission of the Church. Together, ***In Christ, We Are One.***

If you have not yet made a commitment, it is not too late. Just drop your pledge card or envelope marked 'CSA' in the collection basket or turn it in at the parish office. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. As a reminder, anything over our goal will be used to fund various physical plant projects/upgrades as well as evangelization efforts that will sustain our worship site and parish for the next 50 years and beyond.



TAX TIME – If you would like a statement of your 2025 offertory contributions, please email abish@icclarion.org or call 814-226-8433 Ext 100.

CHILD PROTECTION AND CREATING SAFE ENVIRONMENTS – AI-generated Explicit Images. With the rising use of AI, explicit nonconsensual images can be generated easily and without the victim's knowledge. An offender may not even need an explicit image to work from. When threatened with explicit AI-generated images being published or distributed online, victims often succumb to demands for money, in-person meetings or worse. This can affect anyone, regardless of age or gender – but children are most at risk. The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children provides a free service called, "Take It Down," that can help one remove or stop the online sharing of nude, partially nude, or sexually explicit images or videos of minors. For information visit <https://takeitdown.ncmec.org/>. For additional resources visit www.eriecd.org/childprotection/

CATHOLIC MEN'S CONFERENCE

Register today for Erie Diocese Catholic Men's Conference!

Enjoy a dynamic experience with men from around the Diocese of Erie and beyond! The 13th Annual 22:32 Men's Conference will be held on Saturday, March 7th, from 8:30 am to 1:00 pm. You may attend as follows:

- Live in-person at St. Jude the Apostle Parish in Erie;
- Live-streamed here at Immaculate Conception in the OLCC. Other participating parishes are listed on the website, www.2232men.com;
- Live-streamed to your home.

Don't miss this opportunity to grow in your relationship with the Lord through inspiring national speakers and opportunities for prayer, Reconciliation and Mass. All you need to have is an open heart!

The event is just \$25. High School and College students are FREE. If you are a member of Immaculate Conception K of C Council #7549, please call or text Vince Ganoë at 814-227-7665 to register. Your registration is paid for by the Council. For more information and to register, call (814) 455-7364 or visit www.2232men.com

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION SCHOOL
PRESCHOOL—PRE-K & KINDERGARTEN
REGISTRATION

Wednesday, March 18
 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Please enter through the back, blue doors into the Cafeteria.

2026		MARCH					
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	
29	30	31					

MASS Intentions

Monday, February 23 – Saint Polycarp

7:30 a.m. Deceased Members of the Linda Elliott Family

Tuesday, February 24

8:30 a.m. William, Marina, and Bernie Huefner (Jean and John Blachier)

Wednesday, February 25

7:30 a.m. Deceased Members of the David and Andrea Estadt Family

Thursday, February 26

8:30 a.m. Father Monty Sayers (Parish Staff and School Faculty)

Friday, February 27 – Saint Gregory of Narek

7:30 a.m. Deceased Members of the Joseph and Mary Jane Gardina Family



Saturday, February 28

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

4:00 p.m. Father Monty Sayers and Michael DelGreco (JoAnne Grine)

Sunday, March 1 – Second Sunday of Lent

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

8:30 a.m. **RADIO MASS** – Dr. Stanley Michalski (Virginia Martin)

11:00 a.m. For the People

SANCTUARY CANDLE for People in Purgatory (Kate Klimek)

FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY – Are you looking for a way to serve the parish that does not take a lot of time but provides a great service? We are expanding our Fellowship Ministry and are asking for volunteers to help serve refreshments. Fellowship is after all three Masses on the third Sunday each month in the church lobby. Instructions will be provided. Our next fellowship weekend is March 14 and 15. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, email Linda Summerville at linda.summerville62@gmail.com.

Purses & Bling SATURDAY MARCH 21, 2026 TICKETS AVAILABLE AFTER MASSES

Immaculate Conception School Bunny Bingo
 20 Games!
 \$10 Adult Game Cards (3 Games on 1 Card)
 \$5 Children Game Cards
 MONDAY, MARCH 9, 2026
 MONDAY, MARCH 16, 2026
 MONDAY, MARCH 23, 2026
 Doors Open at 5:00 p.m.
 BINGO Starts at 6:00 p.m.

Readings for the week of February 22, 2026
Monday: Lv 19:1-2, 11-18/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15/Mt 25:31-46
Tuesday: Is 55:10-11/Ps 34:4-5, 6-7, 16-17, 18-19 /Mt 6:7-15
Wednesday: Jon 3:1-10/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19 /Lk 11:29-32
Thursday: Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25/Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8/Mt 7:7-12
Friday: Ez 18:21-28/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-7a, 7bc-8 /Mt 5:20-26
Saturday: Dt 26:16-19/Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8/Mt 5:43-48
Next Sunday: Gn 12:1-4a/Ps 33:4-5, 18-19, 20, 22 /2 Tm 1:8b-10/Mt 17:1-9

BECOMING CATHOLIC – Journey of Faith

Are you considering a deeper relationship with Jesus through the Catholic Church? Do you have questions about becoming Catholic? To answer these questions, we invite you to attend inquiry sessions beginning March 1, 2026, to explore your questions.

These sessions are for Unbaptized Adults who are seeking to enter the Church, Baptized Christians from other denominations who wish to enter full communion with the Catholic Church, and Baptized Catholics who have not received the sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist.

If you would like to join us or need more information, please contact Linda Summerville at linda.summerville62@gmail.com

SPECIAL WINTER RETREAT! The Pauline Monastery in Kittanning is hosting a retreat utilizing the blessings of Unbound Ministry on Feb 28 - offering tools for freedom from anxiety, sadness and emotional wounds, as promised in the Gospels. Adults \$60, Students \$25, Couples \$90. Info 412-398-0776.

For details, scan the QR code or visit <https://unboundpghbg.ticketbud.com/special-retreat-unbound-presentation>



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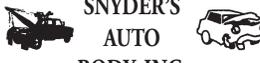


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