

# IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH



**DECEMBER 15, 2024**

## WELCOME!

### Parish Information

129 Graham Avenue  
Brookville, PA 15825  
P: (814) 849-8697  
F: (814) 849-5265  
W: [www.icbrookville.com](http://www.icbrookville.com)

### Our Staff

Pastor | Rev. William M. Laska  
Religious Ed. | Penny Rakovan  
Secretary | Chris Koladish

### Mass Schedule

#### Immaculate Conception

Weekdays: 8:00 a.m.  
Saturday: 5:15 p.m.  
Sunday: 10:30 a.m.  
Holy Day: 8:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.

#### St. Dominic

Sunday: 8:30 a.m.  
Holy Day (Vigil): 6:00 p.m. Reconciliation: 8 a.m.  
Sunday

#### Reconciliation

Saturday: 4:30 p.m. (IC),  
*also by appointment*

## Third Sunday of ADVENT



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## MORE PARISH INFORMATION...

### Sacrament of Marriage

By appointment. A six-month preparation period is required.

### Sacrament of Baptism

By appointment. Please call the rectory for information.

### Sacrament of the Sick

Please call the rectory if anyone in your family is hospitalized or is a shut-in.

### Parish Membership

Membership in the parish is required to be a sponsor for a Sacrament, to be married in the parish, or to have a child baptized. Please notify the rectory office of a change of address or phone number.

### Religious Education Classes

Sunday: 9:00 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. (*All Grades*)

**\*Bulletin Deadline: Monday at 9:00 a.m.**

# THE CHURCHES OF IMMACULATE CONCEPTION AND ST. DOMINIC

## MASS INTENTIONS

Schedule for the Week

### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17

**8:00 AM** Joe and Pearl Guthrie  
by John and Cathy Mester

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18

**8:00 AM** Bob Receski by Barb, Laurie and Cindy

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19

**8:00 AM** Charlotte Koladish  
by Steve and Chris Koladish

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20

**8:00 AM** Richard Love by his Family

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21

**5:15 PM** Harold Zulick

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22

**8:30 AM** (St. Dominic) Parish Family of Immaculate  
Conception and St. Dominic

**10:30 AM** Hazel Amy Palmer  
by John and Marian Palmer

## LITURGICAL SCHEDULE—DECEMBER 21 & 22

### Altar Servers

Saturday, 5:15 p.m. | Please volunteer if you attend this  
Mass

Sunday, 10:30 a.m. | Emelia Gow

### Lectors

Saturday, 5:15 p.m. | Jim Stanley

Sunday, 10:30 a.m. | Sara Gow

St. Dominic | Teresa Gilbert

**Rosary Leaders:** Denny Kinol and Steve Rowan



## STEWARDSHIP - NOVEMBER 30 & DECEMBER 1

### Immaculate Conception & St. Dominic

Envelopes .....	\$2,755.00
Loose.....	\$924.00
Food Pantry Collection.....	\$1151.00
Flower Fund.....	\$656.00
Catholic Services Appeal—Assessment .....	\$41,567.00
Pledged.....	\$78,149.00
Paid.....	\$74,423.00
Weekly Goal to meet Operating Budget.....	\$4,806.00
Accumulated goal since July 1, 2023 .....	\$97,161.00
Surplus ( <b>Deficit</b> ) (Week #21).....	<b>(\$3,765.00)</b>

**Thank you for supporting your parish.**



The Sanctuary Lamp burns in member of Ernie and Jean Caputo. Requested by David and Jennifer Black.

## THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

This Sunday's Gospel continues last week's focus on John the Baptist and his role in preparing the way for Christ. Recall that last week's reading described John's appearance in the desert and established his connection with the prophetic tradition of Israel. If we were to read Luke's Gospel continuously, we would learn about John the Baptist challenging the crowds who came to him and calling upon them to show evidence of their repentance. John tells his listeners that they cannot rely on their lineage as Israelites because children of Abraham can be raised up from stones. Repentance, rather, must be observable in one's actions. Here, Luke is continuing to set up two important themes of his Gospel message: the Christian faith is expressed in one's actions, and the call to salvation is extended to everyone, Jews and Gentiles.

In today's Gospel reading, the crowds ask John the Baptist for specifics. What evidence of repentance is required? John replies by naming concrete actions: crowds should share their food and cloaks; tax collectors should be just; soldiers should act fairly. The concern for justice is a hallmark of Luke's Gospel.

When the crowd begins to wonder if John the Baptist might be the Messiah, John interprets his baptism and makes it clear that his ministry is in preparation for the Messiah. John the Baptist knows his place and role in God's plan of salvation. By encouraging the crowd to act similarly in accordance with their stations in life, John's teaching suggests that each person has a role to play in God's salvation. It is the great mystery of our salvation that God permits and even asks for human cooperation in his divine plans.

The third Sunday of Advent is also called Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete is a Latin word that means "rejoice." This name is taken from the entrance antiphon for Sunday's Mass, which is also echoed in today's second reading from the Paul's letter to the Philippians. Some people mark this Sunday by lighting a pink candle instead of a purple one on their Advent wreath. It is a reminder that the Advent season is a season of joy because our salvation is already at hand.



**USHERS SCHEDULE**

December 21 Jim Stanley, John Mester

December 22 Gene Hoak, Steven Hoak

**MASS REQUESTS FOR 2025**

We will begin accepting Mass requests for 2025 on **Tuesday, December 17th**. Masses are reserved on a first come, first honored basis. **Mass intentions are to be for one person or for one couple or listed as the Deceased members of the family or in honor of a special event.** Please be considerate of other parish families and limit your weekend requests to 2 per family until after the initial request period. Weekend Mass requests may be increased after January 20th. You may reserve your Masses by calling the office at 814-849-8697 or by email at [icbrookville@windstream.net](mailto:icbrookville@windstream.net) or drop your requests in the mail slot at the rectory. Mass stipends remain at \$10 per Mass.



**SANCTUARY LAMP**

The schedule for the Sanctuary Lamp for 2025 is posted on the bulletin board at Immaculate Conception Church. **Please, only one request per family at this time.** Offering for the candle is \$10.

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS MEETING**

The next meeting of the Knights of Columbus will be held on Tuesday, December 17th at 7 pm in the Church Hall at Immaculate Conception Church. All members are encouraged to attend.



**THANK YOU!**

Thank you to all who supported our Thanksgiving Pie Sale. We realized a profit of \$1046.10. Proceeds will go towards the steeple fund. Special thanks to Karen Nosker for spearheading the event and making the pies and to all those who helped with the prep work.

**ADVENT PENANCE SERVICES**

The Advent Penance Services for our area continue today, Sunday, December 15th, here at Immaculate Conception at 3 pm. The final Penance Service will be held next Sunday, December 22nd at St. Tobias Church in Brockway. This service is also at 3 pm.

**ST. DOMINIC'S CHRISTMAS GATHERING**

Saint Dominic's will hold their annual Christmas gathering today, Sunday, December 15th, at the Sigel Civic Center at 1:00 PM. All are welcome to attend. Please bring a covered dish to share. Turkey and Ham will be provided. Beverages, tableware and silverware, too. Hope to see you there to celebrate the Reason for the Season!!



**DECORATING FOR CHRISTMAS**

Parishioners at St. Dominic are invited to stay following the 8:30 am Mass on Sunday, December 22nd to help decorate the Church.

Decorating at Immaculate Conception Church will take place at 2 pm, Sunday, December 22nd. Anyone who is willing to lend a hand is very welcome to come. The more help we have the quicker the job will be accomplished. Decorating typically takes about an hour. We need some help with moving the nativity display and Christmas trees from the Church basement. This is a great opportunity for high school students to earn service hours. All help is greatly appreciated!



**A FAMILY CONNECTION**

The theme of the season of Advent is sometimes described as a period of waiting for the birth of Jesus. However, today's Gospel reading suggests something different. John the Baptist did not tell the crowds to wait for the Messiah. He told them to prepare for the Messiah through acts of repentance. If Advent is a time of waiting, it is not the sitting in the doctor's office kind of waiting. It is a busy time of preparation, more like the waiting we might do when preparing for dinner guests. Our challenge is to not make this season a frenzied time, but rather a time of joyful anticipation and making ready for God who comes to dwell among us and changes our lives with the gift of salvation.