



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 8, 2019

Second Sunday of Advent

Immaculate Conception Church

Holy Redeemer Church

Parish Office

605 Luzerne Avenue

West Pittston, PA 18643

Phone (570) 654-2753

Fax (570) 654-9244

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

Mondays 5:45-6:45PM (during Lent)

Immaculate Conception

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Wednesdays 9:00AM - 10:00AM

Holy Redeemer

Gluten Intolerant?

If you cannot tolerate gluten, please receive communion on the tabernacle side of the church and let the person distributing communion know you need gluten free.

December 8, 2019

Readings/Responsorial: #994

Gathering: #395 O Come, O Come,
Emmanuel

Offertory: #418 On Jordan's Bank

Communion: #402 Like a Shepherd

Recessional: #766 City of God

Weekly Collection

December 1, 2019

Sunday \$7,716.05

E Giving 1,282.90

Total \$8,998.95

Second Collection This Weekend

This weekend at all Masses we will take up the collection to benefit Retirement Fund for Religious. Your generosity is always appreciated!

2020 Parish Calendars

Thank you to the Gubbiotti Funeral Home, LLC for donating our 2020 parish calendars. They can be found in the vestibules of the churches. Take one home today!

Christmas Wafers

Christmas wafers can be found in the vestibules of the churches. Donation is \$2.00 for a pack of 4 wafers.

Altar Servers, EM's, Lectors

Our current ministry schedule will expire at the end of December. If you would like any changes made to your Mass preference times or your contact information, please contact the appropriate coordinator by December 15th with any changes. This will give us ample time to prepare the new schedule, which will cover January thru March 2020.

If you are available to serve Mass on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve or New Year's Day, you must contact your coordinator with your availability so they can prepare the holiday schedule.

Altar Servers: Donna Mason 570-903-9142 mmason8589@aol.com

EM's: Teresa Crossin 570-357-3985 tacross5@comcast.net

Lectors: Rosalie Cullagh 570-430-7319 rosan814@comcast.net

Christmas & New Year's Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve

4:00PM Family Mass Immaculate Conception

5:30PM Mass Holy Redeemer

10:00PM Mass Immaculate Conception

Christmas Day

7:30AM Mass Immaculate Conception

9:00AM Mass Holy Redeemer

10:30AM Mass Immaculate Conception

New Year's Eve

4:00PM Mass Immaculate Conception

5:30PM Mass Holy Redeemer

New Year's Day

9:00AM Mass Immaculate Conception

Youth Group Wreath Sale

Members of our youth group are selling Christmas wreaths. The cost is \$10.00 for a fresh wreath decorated with a red bow. To order, see any youth group member, stop in the rectory or call Juel Anne Klepadlo at 570-430-1470. You may pick out your own wreath thru December 23rd at Ciampi's Greenhouse on Tunkhannock Ave.

Senior Meeting

All are welcome to join us for an afternoon of refreshments, card playing, and friendly chatter on Wednesday, December 11th at 1:00PM in the rectory.

St. Clare Sewing Ministry Meeting

Group will meet on Wednesday, December 11 at 6:00PM in the rectory. This group is collecting rosaries. If you have rosaries you no longer use, please leave them in sacristies of the churches. Thank you.

All are welcome.....

Advent-Christmas Concert

Presented by

Catholic Choral Society of Scranton

Today, Sunday, December 8th @ 3:00PM

in

Immaculate Conception Church

Following the concert, refreshments will be served in the church hall.

Social Concerns News

•The Giving Trees

On the back of each tag is a "family number," which is how we identify the family. On most tags you will find the child's first name, his/her clothing sizes, and a toy or gift suggestion. When you take a tag, please know you do not have to purchase a clothing item. We put ages and sizes on most of the tags this year as many people would call looking for more information such as sizes and ages to make additional purchases. **Please place your wrapped gifts (with the tag attached) under the giving tree no later than Sunday, December 15th.** If you have any questions regarding the giving tree tags, contact Joyce at 570-654-2753 or email jceccconi50@gmail.com.

•Christmas Stockings for Kids

Empty Christmas stockings, which can be found in the vestibules of the churches, can be filled with candy and treats for children from toddler to young teen. Please place filled stockings under the giving trees by next Sunday, December 15th.

•Christmas Cookie Sharing

Our homebound and nursing home parishioners love receiving gifts of homemade goodies. If you are able to share a couple dozen of your favorite homemade Christmas cookies, please drop them off at the rectory by this Thursday, December 12th. Volunteers are asked to meet at **5:00PM in the rectory on Thursday, December 12** to help package and gift wrap these goodies for our elderly parishioners. All are welcome!

•Giving Tree and Christmas Food Distribution

All are welcome to join members of Social Concerns at **5:00PM on Sunday, December 15th in Immaculate Conception Church** to sort giving tree gifts and fill gift boxes of food for 100 families. **Volunteers will be needed on Monday, December 16th from 4:00PM to 6:00PM to help with distribution.** Great opportunity for teens needing service hours!! Thank you!!

■Soup Ministry

Our "soup ministry" members will meet at **9:00AM on Thursday, December 12 and 13** to make a delicious homemade soup for our homebound parishioners.

•Delivery to Nursing Homes & Homebound

On **Friday & Saturday, December 13th & 14th**, volunteers are needed to deliver to 43 homebound parishioners a quart of homemade soup, and a Christmas gift of cookies & chocolates and 40 parishioners residing in nursing homes a gift of cookies & chocolates. **If you can help deliver on Friday, please come to the rectory around 2:00PM or if delivering on Saturday at 10:00AM.** Thank you!!

•Christmas Cake Pops

Volunteers are needed to help make Christmas cake pops on **Thursday and Friday, December 19 and 20 at 9:00AM in the church hall.** These cake pops will be given out at the 4:00PM Family Mass on Christmas Eve.

Christmas Eve Family Mass

All boys and girls are welcome to take part in the Christmas Eve family mass. The children can participate as lectors, gift bearers, heavenly hosts or take part in the skit (non-reading parts). For more information or to sign up, just contact one of the following Family Liturgy Committee members:

Lisa Falzone 570-237-2739 mybudge1@aol.com
Sarah Konopka 571-498-9304 skono1683@yahoo.com
MaryAnn Oliveri 570-357-1778 mare0912b@epix.net

2019 Diocesan Annual Appeal

DAA 2019 Parish Goal	\$32,000.00
Total Raised	\$31,001.00
Over (Under)	(\$999.00)

Altar Candles at ICC

Which will burn this week in loving memory of **Ida Popple Rowe** are donated by her family.

Holy Family Candle at ICC

Which will burn this week in loving memory of **Anthony Hassey** is donated by his wife, Grace & family.

Sanctuary Candle at ICC

Which will burn this week in loving memory of **Rita Ann DeNisco** is donated by Ross & Rosemary.

Mass Intentions

December 9 thru December 15, 2019

Mon	7:30AM	Lola & John Rindgen By daughter, Patricia
	8:30AM	Lillian Hafich By Judy Hine
Tues	7:30AM	Paul Laure By daughter, Donna & Family
	8:30AM	Ronald Villano By Ada Magni & Patrick Umbra
Wed	7:30AM	Theresa Montante By Sons & Families
	8:30AM	Marty Pleban By Anthony & Louise Kondracki
Thurs	7:30AM	Florence & William Pilkonis By Family
	8:30AM	Steve Franko By Mike Dziak, Jr.
Fri	7:30AM	Jeanne Conway By Jim, Diane, & Jason Wasilowski
	8:30AM	Ann "Nancy" Nardone By David & Mary Lou Gill & Family
Sat	4:00PM	John Casey By Family
	5:30PM	Cataldo, Christine & Sammy Scalzo By Family
Sun	7:30AM	Stanley Szafran By wife, Jeanette & daughters
	9:00AM	Dec'd Members of Rupsky Family By Patricia
	10:30AM	Dominick & Lucy Occhiato By Family



Vision 2020

Seeing a Future Full of Hope

DECEMBER 2019

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

• **Is 11:1-10**

The spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him: a spirit of wisdom and of understanding, a spirit of counsel and of strength, a spirit of knowledge and of fear of the LORD.

• **Psalms 72**

Justice shall flourish in his time and the fullness of peace forever.

• **Romans 15:4-9**

May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to think in harmony with one another. Welcome one another, as Christ welcomed you, for the glory of God.

• **Mt 3:1-12**

Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand! Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.

Shaping a Blueprint for the Future of the Diocese

In today's homily for the Second Sunday of Advent, Bishop Bambera explained to us that it is time for the whole Church of Scranton to take a good look at the life of our parishes and to project a future vision in response to God's call today.

Your Pastors have taken first steps in this conversation in recent deanery meetings, and now it is essential to broaden this conversation to include all of the faithful.

Bishop Bambera pointed out to us the reality of change in our world and in our local communities, and so we know that we will continue to face and

respond to change within the church. "I'm inviting all of the faithful," he said, "to simply focus on how we best engage the mission of



the gospel in these changing times." Some of these changes include shifting demographics, differing attitudes about formal church participation, and diminishment in numbers of ordained priests

available to serve as full-time pastors.

In the coming year, then, Bishop Bambera is asking us to continue working together to fashion a "blueprint" if you will—a pathway for our local Church, tailored to each deanery and to each parish—for how we will meet both the challenges and the opportunities we will face in the next ten year period.

In his homily he stressed that, "while every parish is similar in what it is being asked to do and to be, each parish will respond to this process in ways that are unique to its situation and circumstances."

Rooted in the Vision of Servant Leadership

Excerpted from Bishop Bambera's 2011 Pastoral Letter, Wounded and Loved, Regathering the Scattered

When we assume that our journey of faith is just about personal holiness and generosity alone, we forget that the mission of Jesus is to bring the good news of salvation to the ends of the earth. We forget that there is one God and Father of us all. We neglect a critical mystery of faith that in giving we receive; that in dying to self we are born to eternal life. We need to **return ourselves to this larger view of our communion and mission**: a vision of life together that restores our sense of being part of something larger than ourselves and greater than our personal inadequacies. Let us together serve the mission of Jesus Christ to gather the scattered back into God's loving embrace. This mission is not our own, nor is the power to achieve it. Let us rely on the power and grace of the promised Spirit of Jesus! My brothers and sisters, once we begin to appreciate that we are loved by God, the desire to embrace the life of the One who loves us also begins to grow. The Lord's challenge to us who receive His very body and blood is that we allow our lives also to be broken and poured forth in loving service of our sisters and brothers.



Planning Guidance for Each Deanery

Guiding the overall process are these planning assumptions as common elements across the Diocese:

- The benchmarks for vibrant parishes are in accord with the vision expressed in Bishop Bambera’s Pastoral Letter, especially *pages 7-13*;
- In every local circumstance, efforts are made to best utilize the particular ministry gifts of the clergy and, at the same time, to mobilize the gifts of all the baptized;

- Each deanery blueprint implementation is unique, and may consider such questions as: number of worship sites, Mass schedules and wise investment of resources;
- No deanery is planning in isolation – the circumstances in one may occasion change in another;
- Parish pastoral plans are respected and help to inform deanery level plans;
- Recommendations from deaneries or parishes are

brought to Diocesan review;

- Parishes in linked relationship, sharing a Pastor, will be given additional planning support to evaluate and craft the best path forward;
- Every parish calls forth those individuals whose capacity for pastoral leadership could be developed through vocational discernment for priesthood, religious life, lay ministry or permanent diaconate.

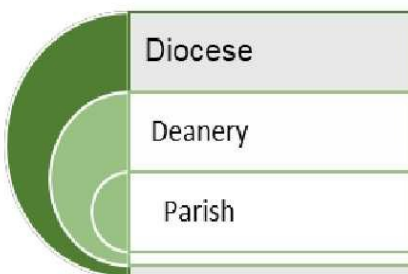


We, the Catholic community of the Diocese of Scranton, are called through Baptism to imitate the servant leadership of Jesus Christ. In union with our Holy Father, the Pope, we proclaim the Gospel faithfully, celebrate the sacraments joyfully, and boldly promote life, justice and peace in northeastern and north central Pennsylvania.

Questions for Reflection and Dialogue

- 1. Bishop’s pastoral letter, quoted on reverse side, says parishes need to “return to a larger view of our communion and mission.” What would this look like for us? What would we be doing differently? How would this help us respond to the kind of changes in church and society which Bishop mentioned in his homily?**
- 2. The Advent gospels challenge us to keep our eyes on the goal of our journey — to make God’s vision of a world of peace and justice even more true and visible in our part of the world. What will happen to this mission of the church as we have fewer priests to serve as full-time Pastors?**
- 3. What could the members of our parish do to prepare for the reality of additional change in pastoral leadership in the coming years? How can we work with neighboring parishes to sustain the life and mission for which we are baptized?**

What is a Deanery?



The Diocese of Scranton includes 118 parishes in 11 counties of northeastern and north central Pennsylvania. These parishes are grouped geographically, for collaboration and mission effectiveness, into 12 Deaneries. Each deanery may have 8-12 parishes. The Pastors and PLCs serving in a given Deanery select one from among themselves to serve as the local leader, or Dean. In the Diocese at present, the Deaneries are:

- | | | | |
|------------|---------------|--------------|----------|
| Carbondale | Honesdale | Stroudsburg | Scranton |
| Sayre | Williamsport | Wilkes-Barre | Hazleton |
| Pittston | Clarks Summit | Dunmore | Kingston |