



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.

March 29, 2020
Fifth Sunday of Lent

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

Immaculate Conception Church
Will be Open for Private Prayer
Daily
7:00AM-7:00PM

Weekly Collection
March 22, 2020

Mailed In	\$247.00
E Giving	\$687.67
Total	\$934.67

SUNDAY MASS
now on the
WEBSITE
corpuschristinepa.com
And
FACEBOOK
www.facebook.com/corpuschristiparishpa

Virtual Bible Study

In an effort to stay connected to each other and to our faith, Deacon Jim will be offering a virtual bible study. We will meet using the Zoom application. The application can be used on smartphones or laptops. We will be reviewing and discussing the upcoming Sunday readings each week. We will meet on Wednesday evenings at 6:00 PM for approximately one hour. Each Wednesday we will discuss the following Sunday's readings. Our first session will be held on Wednesday, March 25th at 6:00 PM. If you are interested, contact Deacon Jim at 570-239-2783 or deacon.meizanis@gmail.com. And since it is virtual, snacks are on your own!!!

My Dear Parishioners,

I've heard it said, "When you lose someone, you realize what an impact they had upon you." I miss seeing all of you at the daily and weekend masses. The rectory is like a ghost town. I can't wait until we can gather once again at church.

As a community, we are not strangers to challenges -- the flood of 2011, the ice jam of 2018, just to name a few. Let's not forget what a strong community of faith we are. We WILL get through this, as well. We need to let the experts guide us and keep "social distancing" for as long as they tell us. I believe that when all is said and done, just like after the flood and ice jam, life as we knew it will change. We will have to adapt to new norms, as we have done in the past.

This week a parishioner came to the door with his envelopes and said, "It hit me yesterday that the church, like the rest of us, continues to have bills to pay." He is correct, we still have operational bills such as regular maintenance and upkeep of our buildings, energy, insurances, assessments, and all the other ordinary parish expenses which need to be paid. We continue to rely on your financial support to sustain our parish during these challenging days and to assure our viability in the years to come, so if you can send in your offering, via mail or E-giving, it would be helpful. I am very aware that there are many of you who may no longer be getting a paycheck, so if you are unable to give at this time, please know I understand. If we can be of assistance to any of you in any way, please do not hesitate to call the rectory.

I am not on social media (Facebook), but thanks to Casey Lucas, Mike Liberski, and Deacon Jim, we have been able to put daily and Sunday masses on Facebook and on our parish website. Holy week will be quite different this year. We plan to continue to put these services (which will be condensed) on social media. It is one way we can still connect with one another, if even from a distance.

For now, thank you for everything that you do. You are a great example to the youth of our parish -- we still owe them a donut Sunday! Keep the faith, pray, laugh, cry, follow what our government leaders and medical experts tell us to do, and NEVER GIVE UP!

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

Msgr. John Sempa

PALM SUNDAY

Next Sunday is Palm Sunday. Palm will be available outside of both churches weather permitting . If inclement weather it will be available in the vestibule. No matter the location, we need to be respectful of "social distancing". Thank You.

Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)

The outbreak of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) may be stressful for people. Fear and anxiety about a disease can be overwhelming and cause strong emotions in adults and children. Coping with stress will make you, the people you care about, and your community stronger.

Everyone reacts differently to stressful situations. How you respond to the outbreak can depend on your background, the things that make you different from other people, and the community you live in. People who may respond more strongly to the stress of a crisis include:

- ▶ Older people and people with chronic diseases who are at higher risk for COVID-19
- ▶ Children and teens
- ▶ People who are helping with the response to COVID-19, like doctors and other health care providers, or first responders
- ▶ People who have mental health conditions including problems with substance use

Stress during an infectious disease outbreak can include:

- ▶ Fear and worry about your own health and the health of your loved ones
- ▶ Changes in sleep or eating patterns
- ▶ Difficulty sleeping or concentrating
- ▶ Worsening of chronic health problems
- ▶ Increased use of alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs

People with preexisting mental health conditions should continue with their treatment and be aware of new or worsening symptoms. Additional information can be found at the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration ([SAMHSAexternal icon](#)) website.

Taking care of yourself, your friends, and your family can help you cope with stress. Helping others cope with their stress can also make your community stronger.

Things you can do to support yourself:

- ▶ Take breaks from watching, reading, or listening to news stories, including social media. Hearing about the pandemic repeatedly can be upsetting.
- ▶ Take care of your body. Take deep breaths, stretch, or meditate. Try to eat healthy, well-balanced meals, exercise regularly, get plenty of sleep, and avoid alcohol and drugs.
- ▶ Make time to unwind. Try to do some other activities you enjoy.
- ▶ Connect with others. Talk with people you trust about your concerns and how you are feeling.

The Following Parish Events are postponed/cancelled:

- ▶ **Holy Name Breakfast** (Should be rescheduled. If you prefer a refund, please call the rectory 570-654-2753.)
- ▶ **Religious Ed Classes**
- ▶ **Confirmation Class**
- ▶ **Soup & Scripture**
- ▶ **First Eucharist Retreat**
- ▶ **Communion to the Homebound**
- ▶ **Soup to the Homebound**
- ▶ **Twilight Bingo** (To all who sent in sponsorships and those who purchased tickets, the bingo will be rescheduled once this ban is lifted. If you prefer a refund, please call the rectory 570-654-2753.)

Candles March 29 thru April 4, 2020

Altar Candles @ ICC

Which will burn this week in loving memory of **Steve Sokach** is donated by his wife, Judy & Family.

Holy Family Candle @ ICC

Which will burn this week in loving memory of **Rita Ann Denisco** is donated by Catherine & Gene Manganiello.

Sanctuary Candle @ ICC

Which will burn this week in loving memory of **Fred Melvin** is donated by Mary Margaret & Bill.

On a daily basis, Msgr. Sempa will celebrate Masses privately for the good of the following Intentions of the day.

Mass Intentions

March 30 thru April 5, 2020

Monday	Dec'd Members of Alexander & Josephine Parente Family By Grandchildren Paul Zongilla By Annette Falzone Leonard Insalaco, II By Mom, Dad & Family
Tuesday	Patricia Musinski By Children & Grandchildren Gary "Munchie" Rindgen By Ann Marie & Heidi Willis Steve Sokach By Frank Onda
Wednesday	Rita Ann, Ross, Sr & Anna Maria DeNisco By Ross & Rosemary Paul Bartush By Kasisky Family Edmund Kaczmarek By Joseph Palmentere
Thursday	Mary Ann Switzer By Julie Angeli Mancus Thomas Stout, Daisy, Joe & Rose Randazzo By Wife & Daughter, Mary Ann Joseph Fedor By Rosella & Josette
Friday	Theresa & Joe Cravatta By Daughter, Phyllis Fred Melvin By Mary Margaret & Bill Mary Ann Pearsall By Dolores Romanowski
Saturday	Ray Yunkunis By Caroline Traglia Elizabeth Marranta By Son, Joseph & Marie
Sunday	Christophe Ryan Bone By Brian Andrea & Jessica Zaborny Al Ciampi By Wife, Gini & Children Joseph & Theresa Olshemski By Children