

Give, and gifts will be given to you;  
a good measure, packed together,  
shaken down, and overflowing,  
will be poured into your lap.

*Luke 6:38*



SEVENTH SUNDAY  
IN ORDINARY TIME

February 24, 2019

## Church of the Immaculate Conception

*Pastor: Rev. James J. Ward*

Rectory office: 9 a.m.–12 p.m., Mon–Fri, Closed Wed.  
570-325-2791 • [iccjt@ptd.net](mailto:iccjt@ptd.net) • [www.iccimfhorpe.org](http://www.iccimfhorpe.org)

Whole Community Catechesis (WCC): [wccjt@ptd.net](mailto:wccjt@ptd.net)  
St. Joseph Pre-School: 570-325-3186

Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator:  
Wendy S. Krisak, MA, NCC, LPC Direct Phone: 800-791-9209

Diocesan Safe Environment Coordinator:  
Sr. Meg Cole, SSJ, MS, LMFT Phone: 610-332-0442 ext. 19

### Mass Schedule \*unless otherwise noted in bulletin schedule

Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 8:00 a.m. at St. Joseph Church  
Tuesday and Thursday: 8:00 a.m. at Immaculate Conception Church

Saturday Vigil: 4:30 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Church  
6:30 p.m. at St. Joseph Church

Sunday: 8:00 a.m. at St. Joseph Church  
10:30 a.m. at Immaculate Conception Church

### SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:

Saturdays: at ICC 3:45 p.m. to 4:15 p.m.; at St. Joseph: 6:00 p.m. to 6:20 p.m.

☩ anytime upon request

## RADICAL LOVE

Have you ever read or heard anything about Jesus being called a “radical”? What such a statement ignores is that God has been a radical all through salvation history. What kind of superior being forgives the kind of unloving actions humankind has committed through the centuries? Answer: a God of radical mercy, kindness, love. In today’s Gospel, Jesus teaches that, like himself, like God, we must love with God-like radical compassion, even those who are our “enemies.” Didn’t Jesus give us an extreme example, forgiving those who put him to death? How difficult it is to be like God, like Jesus, forgiving, even *loving*, the very people who have treated us badly!

The first reading gives another example. David was under a death sentence by King Saul, who had become David’s enemy through jealousy. Given an opportunity to murder Saul in his sleep, David chose to let him live, out of respect for God’s will toward Saul. David recognized that the only way for him to do God’s will was to love Saul, his enemy, enough to refrain from being judge, jury, and executioner.

Today’s psalm praises God for showing mercy toward us, even though we are weak-willed and consistently in need of forgiveness. God is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked, too, and calls us to show this God-like mercy to all. In Paul’s letter to the Corinthians, he tells us that by living and loving as Jesus did, as new creatures, we will bear his image as well. That being the case, and knowing that we are all children of a merciful God, made in God’s image and likeness, we take on the image of Jesus through God-like kindness and compassion.

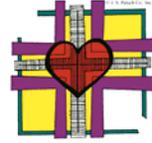
That word “radical” comes from the Latin word for root (*radix*)—we hear this truth every year during the season of Advent. One of the “names” of the Promised One, Jesus, is “Root” of Jesse—indeed, a radical from before his birth.

# Liturgical Schedule ~ Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Special Prayer Intentions- these are the people for whom we will be praying at Mass:

## Sat. Feb. 23

4:30 pm (@ ICC) **Karyssa Schatz** (Judy & Jerry Nederostek)  
6:30 pm (@ SJC) **Philip G. Rader** (Wife, Betty Ann)



## Sun. Feb. 24

8:00 am (@ SJC) **Randy Smith** (Joe Blisko) / **Living & Deceased Parishioners**  
10:30 am (@ ICC) **Virginia & Jake Llewellyn** (Family)

## Mon. Feb. 25

8:00 am (@ SJC) **Sarah Straubinger** (Thomas & Kathleen Straubinger) / **John J. Dedinsky** (Irene & John Dedinsky)

## Tues. Feb. 26

No Mass

## Wed. Feb. 27

8:00 am (@ SJC) **Mary Agnes McElmoyle** (Craig & Lisa Zurn) / **James Walters** (Family)

## Thurs. Feb. 28

No Mass

## Fri. Mar. 1

8:00 am (@ SJC) **Ann D. Fauzio** (Elaine Sebelin) / **Kay Bimler** (Jean McElmoyle)

## 8<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

### Sat. Mar. 2

4:30 pm (@ ICC) **Nora Stanko** (DePuy Family)  
6:30 pm (@ SJC) **Joan Lesisko** (Judy & Dave Miller & Family)

### Sun. Mar. 3

8:00 am (@ SJC) **Irene Milan** (Dan & Kay Boyle) / **Living & Deceased Parishioners**  
10:30 am (@ ICC) **Connor McHugh** (Grandparents)



Lay Ministers for the Weekend of March 2/3		
Ministries:	Saturday 4:30 p.m.	Sunday 10:30 a.m.
Lector:	M Figura	J Llewellyn
E.M.:	H Dugan	J McGuire
Altar Servers:	L & A Figura	Z Zurn, B Goldberg

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM ~THE LORD IS KIND AND MERCIFUL.

**THE SECOND COLLECTION** this weekend is for Snow & Ice Removal.

Next weekend's collection will be for Easter Flowers.



Baptism

**WE WELCOME Cooper Liam**

**Chapman**, son of Michael & Erica

Chapman, who was baptized last

weekend into our Parish Family. Please pray for him and his parents as he begins his faith journey in Christ.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SOUL of Kenneth C. Roos**, and all the souls of the faithful departed.

**PLEASE NOTE:** There is no Mass on Tuesday and Thursday this week!

**2019 CHILDREN'S ENVELOPE**

**BOXES** are available for pick-up in church. If your child does not have a set of envelopes, please call the rectory and they will be prepared and be available the following week.



**WCC Question of the Week**

What does it mean to love your enemy?

**FAMILY ACTIVITY:** Sit down as a family and talk about some of the problems you have had with people during the week, either those at school, work, or in your family. Discuss some strategies on how to deal with them and talk about your feelings. Each evening before going to bed say an extra prayer for the person you are having difficulty with.

**EASTER FLOWER MEMORIAL DONATION ENVELOPES** are included in your packet of mailed envelopes. Please mark the back of the envelope to be included in the booklet printed for Easter Sunday. You may donate in Memory of a Loved one, or In Honor of, or for a Special Intention. The suggested donation is \$10. You may also use any plain envelope including the above information. **Please return the envelope to the Rectory no later than Monday, April 8<sup>th</sup> to be included in the booklet.**



**THERE WILL BE A WOMEN'S CLUB MEETING** on March 21, at 7pm in McGinley Hall.

**BAPTISM CLASSES:** Parents who wish to have their child baptized at ICC or St. Joseph must attend a Baptism Class. If parents have attended for a previous child or at another parish they must present a certificate of completion or another form of confirmation of attendance. Classes are offered once a month by Deacon John Mroz and his wife Rita in the Brogan Room at St. Joseph from 6:30pm to 8pm. Class dates for the next few months are: March 20, April 10, May 22, June 19, & July 24. Please call the Rectory office to register.



**LENTEN RETREAT: CHOICES ~ The Hinges of Destiny.** March 5, 12, 19 & 26, 6:45 ~ 9:00, St. Francis Center for Renewal. Offering: \$15 per session/ 4 sessions for \$50.

What better way to prepare for Lent and grow closer to Jesus than to contemplate on his life and the choices he made during his time on earth? Join us as we walk alongside Jesus of Nazareth and consider the radical choices he made at pivotal moments in his life. Just as Jesus' choices reveal much about who he is, our choices reveal who we are. We will also reflect on our own choices and discern if our decisions are authentically Christian. Each evening to include: meditations, private contemplative activities, lectures, music (including live music), and more! Facilitator Nina Marie Corona, MA, CRS, is currently pursuing a Doctor of Ministry degree at Fordham University. She possesses a Master of Arts in Spirituality from Loyola University, & she also studied graduate theology at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary & LaSalle University. Nina is also an adjunct instructor at Villanova University's Department of Theology & Religious Studies. Robin Knaap will be joining this retreat. She is a Christian singer & leader of the group Freely Given.

*Be merciful,  
JUST AS YOUR FATHER  
is merciful.*  
LUKE 6:36

**COME AND SEE WEEKEND:** Young men and teenaged boys ages 15 and over are invited to attend a weekend retreat at Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary, Philadelphia, from April 5 - 7, 2019. The weekend includes Mass and time with our Seminarians; time for prayer, adoration and reflection; sightseeing in Philadelphia with visits to the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul; and the Saint John Neumann Shrine. All meals are included, plus a stop for cheesesteaks! The registration deadline is Monday, March 25 For forms & more info visit [allentowndiocese.org/come-and-see-weekend](http://allentowndiocese.org/come-and-see-weekend)

**TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION:** When the Roman Empire turned a favorable eye toward the once-persecuted Christians, among the effects was a population explosion in the baptismal font, as Christian sympathizers stepped from the shadows. With more and more people becoming Christians, laws were passed to protect Sunday as a work-free day. Soon, it became possible to celebrate Mass later in the morning, rather than the older custom of gathering before dawn to celebrate Eucharist. Amazingly, despite the increasing numbers of Christians, there was great resistance to adding to the number of worship events; the Eucharist that began as a few friends around a table soon was transformed into a more formal event with throngs crowding a large hall. All the Christians in a city or town would gather around the bishop for the one Sunday Eucharist, and only when the crowds became unmanageable was there an impulse to divide the assembly by splitting off a new bishop and flock.

Now, sixteen hundred years later, many parishes see a need to trim or combine Mass schedules. This is often seen as tough surgery. Yet our forebears in the faith would see it as a gain: a filling up of the Eucharist with a large and vigorous assembly, a fullness of ministry, an opportunity to make the Church more fully visible and stronger for service.

--James Field, © J. S. Paluch Co.

**PRISON MINISTRY WORKSHOP:** Do you have a desire to volunteer in Catholic Prison Ministry? Join us on Sat., March 23, 8:30 am–12pm at St. Joseph the Worker, Orefield. The morning will begin with Mass at 8:30 am with the workshop to follow in the Parish Center. The workshop will feature talks & discussion designed to assist those in Catholic Prison Ministry. Featured speakers are: Rev. Jason Stokes, Rev. Daniel Basile, Ms. Wendy Krisak. To register for this FREE workshop, visit

[allentowndiocese.org/prisonministry](http://allentowndiocese.org/prisonministry).

Questions may be directed to [cle@allentowndiocese.org](mailto:cle@allentowndiocese.org) or call 610-289-8900 ext. 2021.