

Diocese of Allentown

The Roman Catholic Community of Jim Thorpe

Immaculate Conception Parish

Pastor: Rev. Ronald J. Minner

Deacon: Mr. Jack Mroz • Pastor Emeritus: Rev. James J. Ward



Immaculate Conception Rectory
180 W. Broadway
570-325-2791 • iccjt@ptd.net
www.iccjimthorpe.org
Office Hours: Mon., Tues., Thurs., Fri:
8:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Closed Wednesday



St. Joseph Rectory
526 North Street
570-325-3731 • stjosjt@ptd.net
www.saintjosephchurch-jimthorpe.org
Office hours: Monday through Friday:
8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator: Wendy S. Krisak, MA, NCC, LPC, Direct Phone: 800-791-9209;
Diocesan Secretary for Youth Protection: Pamela J. Russo, MSW, MS, Phone: 610-871-5200, Ext. 2204;
P.O. Box F, Allentown, PA 18105-1538, prusso@allentowndiocese.org

The Diocese of Allentown provides assistance to anyone, who as a minor, was sexually abused by a priest, deacon, or employee / volunteer of the Diocese / Parish. Parents, guardians, children, and survivors of sexual abuse are invited and encouraged to contact the Diocese of Allentown for more information about the program. The fullness of compassion should be extended to these victims by the Church. If you have an allegation of abuse against a bishop, please contact the Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service www.ReportBishopAbuse.org or by calling 800-276-1562.

December 18, 2022 ~ The Fourth Sunday of Advent

WORSHIP

Saturday Vigil: 4:30 p.m. @ Immaculate Conception
 Sunday: 8:30 a.m. @ St. Joseph Church; 10:30 a.m @ Immaculate Conception
 Daily Mass: 8:00 a.m. Mon. & Thurs. @ ICC; Tues. & Fri. @ SJC; Wed., rotates weekly
 Holy Days: As announced
 First Saturday: 9:00 a.m. rotates Church every month, Jan-SJC; Feb-ICC; March-SJC
 Exposition & Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: Wednesdays, 12 Noon to 6pm, Rotates Weekly

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:

Wednesdays at 5:00 p.m.
 1st, 3rd & 5th Wednesday of month @ ICC
 2nd & 4th Wednesday of month @ SJC

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM:

Call the Rectory for registration and necessary preparations. Parents must attend a Baptism Prep Class, which are offered monthly.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE:

Call the rectory at least six months in advance of proposed wedding date for registration and any necessary preparations.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK:

This Sacrament is provided to any sick, or elderly person who requests it. Notify the Rectory office as soon as someone becomes seriously ill, so that they might receive this Sacrament, please do not wait until death is imminent.

COMMUNION TO THE HOMEBOUND:

Fr. Minner & Eucharistic Ministers visit monthly those who are homebound and wish to receive Communion. Please call the Rectory to notify us about someone who wishes to be visited.

NEW MEMBERS:

Welcome! Please call or email the Rectory in order to register. Please notify the office if you change your address or move away.

PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM:

PREP Classes are held Sunday at 9:30 a.m. Sept-May
 Rose Strubinger, CRE , iccprep1@gmail.com

ST. JEROME REGIONAL SCHOOL:

Mrs. Amy Hannis-Miskar, Principal
 570-668-2757; sjrschool.com

ST. JOHN NEUMANN REGIONAL SCHOOL:

Mrs. Mary Comensky, Principal
 610-826-2354; altcsjn@ptd.net

MARIAN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL:

Mr. Michael Brennan, Head of School
 570-467-3335; mariancatholichs.org

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Mon. 12/19: RCIA, 6:30-8:30 pm; Advent Confessions from 5 to 7 pm @ ICC
Tues. 12/20: Flame of Love Rosary, 8:30 am; Enrichment Group - 5-7 pm; Advent Confessions from 5 to 7 pm @ SJC
Wed. 12/21: Adoration, Noon-6pm; Divine Mercy Chaplet, 3pm; Advent Confessions from 4 to 6pm @ ICC
Thurs. 12/22: SJ Choir, 6:30pm; Advent Confessions from 4 to 6 pm @ SJC



Weekly Adoration Schedule

Please consider joining us ~ **all are welcome** to attend at any time during the day! If you cannot make your scheduled time, and you are the only person scheduled, please find someone, or call Rita Mroz, 570-732-4130.

| ICC | Wednesday, Dec. 21 |
|-----------|--|
| 12 - 1 PM | Barbara Rodgers / Rita & Dcn Mroz |
| 1 - 2 PM | Sarah Moss / Helen Hillanbrand |
| 2 - 3 PM | Louise Goldman / Anita Bott |
| 3 - 4 PM | Louise Goldman / Anita Bott |
| 4 - 5 PM | Pete & Maureen Gipprich |
| 5 - 6 PM | Regina Rose / Marie Damian / Joan & Mike Suzadail / Mary Sauka |

| Lay Ministers Dec. 24 | | |
|-----------------------|---|---|
| Ministry | Sat. 4:00pm ICC | Sat. 6:00 pm SJC |
| Lector: | Mary Figura | * Need volunteer |
| E.M.: | Deacon Jack, Maggie Dugan, Jerry Nederostek | Deacon Jack, Bernie Schweibinz, Gloria Kehrli |

| Lay Ministers Dec. 25 | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Ministry | Sun. 12 Midnight SJC | Sun. 8:30 am SJC | Sun 10:30am ICC |
| Lector: | *Need volunteer | Vince Roos | Jay Miller |
| E.M.: | Gloria Kehrli | Pam Heydt | Jim Novak |

Fourth Sunday of Advent



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

Sat. Dec. 17

4:30 pm (ICC) **Franklin Miller** (Family) / **Bill McElmoyle** (Tom & Pat Vaccaro)

Sun. Dec. 18

8:30 am (SJC) **Kenneth Hoppes**, 80th Bday (Wife, Wilma)

10:30 am (ICC) **David Formica**, 32nd Bday (Mom & Heather) / **Kathleen Gentile** (Children)

Mon. Dec. 19

8:00 am (ICC) **In Thanksgiving to St. Jude** (Walt Fagen) /
Dolores Gillespie (Jane, Jean, & Joan Roos)

Tues. Dec. 20

8:00 am (SJC) **George Marzen** (Dinh Nguyen & Family of CA) /
Ann Micklus (niece, Marcia King Miller & Family)

Wed. Dec. 21

St. Peter Canisius

12 Noon-6 pm *Exposition & Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament*
4:00-6:00 pm *Sacrament of Reconciliation*

6:00 pm (ICC) **Jacob & Angela Tokosh** (Tokosh Family) /
In Thanksgiving for Blessings (Goldman Behr Families)



Thurs. Dec. 22

8:00 am (ICC) **Eugene "Kelly" Hager** (Paul Martino) / **Patricia McFadden** (Trisha & Mike Spillman)

Fri. Dec. 23

St. John of Kanty

8:00 am (SJC) **Evelyn Dinan** (Stephanie Maliniak) / **Paul Yaich** (Margaret Moser & Family)

Sat. Dec. 24

9:00 am (SJC) *Rosary for Life*

The Nativity of the Lord, Christmas Eve Vigil Mass

Sat. Dec. 24

4:00 pm (ICC) **For All Who Serve in the Military & Their Families**

6:00 pm (SJC) **Living & Deceased Priests and Sisters Who Served at St. Joseph**

The Nativity of the Lord, Christmas Day

Sun. Dec. 25

12 Midnight (SJC) **All Living & Deceased Priests of the Allentown Diocese**

8:30 am (SJC) **Missa Pro Popula, All Living & Deceased Parishioners**

10:30 am (ICC) **Missa Pro Popula, All Living & Deceased Parishioners**

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH

THE FOURTH CANDLE ON OUR ADVENT WREATH burns in Loving Memory of
George & Emma Marzen (From, Phyllis Lienhard & Lois Henritz)



BLESSED MOTHER CANDLE burns for the Health of **Patty McArdle** (From, Michael & Jacki)

BLESSED MOTHER CANDLE burns in Loving Memory of **David Formica** (From PopPop & Gram)

ST. PEREGRINE CANDLE burns in Loving Memory of **David Formica** (From PopPop & Gram)

SAINT JOSEPH CHURCH

SANCTUARY: In Loving Memory of **Irene Cibik** (Requested by Catherine)

SAINT JOSEPH: In Loving Memory of **Charles V. Folk** (Requested by Harriet Zetelski)

HOLY FAMILY: In Thanksgiving **Dan & Karyn - "20th"** (Requested by Mom)

SAINT RITA: In Loving Memory of **Rita Martino, bday** (Requested by John & Patty Martino & Children)

PARISH STEWARDSHIP:

11/13/22: \$ 4,206.00

World Mission Sunday: \$ 1,402.00

Thank you for your continued support & generosity.

THE RECTORY OFFICES

will close for the Christmas holiday on Friday, December 23rd and will re-open on Tuesday, January 3rd.

Messages and emails will be checked. Have a wonderful Christmas!



THE GIVING TREE AT ST. JOSEPH CHURCH:

Our Giving Tree is in the vestibule and there are tags at the handicap entrance. Donations will benefit Divine Mercy, Care Net and Jim Thorpe Community Food Bank. Please help yourself to as many tags as you can. Purchase the item and return it under the tree with the tag. It does not need to be wrapped.



CHRISTMAS ANGELS: We are planning for Christmas Eve Masses at ICC & SJC and we are looking for children (boys & girls) to be our Christmas Angels @ either

Mass, 4pm @ ICC or 6pm @ SJC on Sat, Dec. 24th. Please contact the Rectory to register, or call Judy to be a part of the procession at Immaculate at 4pm.

DECORATING SCHEDULE @ ST. JOSEPH:

Listed below are days/times of decorating church for Christmas. Any and all hands are welcome!

Wednesday, Dec. 21: Following 6pm Mass, Christmas tree decorating & windows

Friday, Dec. 23: 3pm, Nativity setup & Flowers



Christmas Prelude



Prelude of Carols A prelude of choral and instrumental Christmas music starting at 5:30pm will precede the 6pm Christmas Eve Mass at St. Joseph Church.

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Advent Confessions

Mon, Dec. 19: 5 to 7 pm @ ICC

Tues, Dec. 20: 5 to 7 pm @ SJC

Wed, Dec. 21: 4 to 6 pm @ ICC

Thurs, Dec. 22: 4 to 6 pm @ SJC



Christmas

Sat, Dec 24: 4:00 pm at ICC; 6:00 pm at SJC;

Sun. Dec 25: 12am Midnight at St. Joseph
8:30 am at SJC; 10:30 am at ICC

No Mass Mon. Dec. 26th

Solemnity of Mary

Sat. Dec. 31: 4:30 pm at ICC

Sun. Jan. 1: 8:30 am at SJC; 10:30am @ ICC



EARLY DEADLINES: Due to printing production deadlines, information for the bulletin deadlines for the season: January 1 bulletin due by 9am Tues Dec. 20.

WEDNESDAY ADORATION: We are in desperate need of Adorers for the Holy Eucharist on Wednesday's between the hours of 1 and 5. Right now we have 3 Adorers who are sick and unable to do their time slots, from 1-2 and 2-4. We only have one couple for the 4-5 slot, so it makes it hard if they cannot make it. Please prayerfully consider a commitment of a 1/2 hour every week or one hour every week. Our time spent before the Blessed Sacrament can change the world. Please call Rita Mroz at 570-732-4130. Thank you and God bless you.



HOPE PEACE
Love Joy

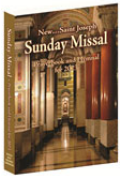
COMING IN JANUARY: Writing a spiritual memoir: catching the glimpses of grace in your life. More information to follow! If interested, call Nancy at 609-575-0599.

LECTOR & EUCHARISTIC MINISTER NEEDED FOR SUNDAY JAN 1ST!

Immaculate Conception still needs a Lector and Eucharistic Minister for Solemnity of Mary, Jan 1st, 10:30am Mass. Please call the Rectory this week if you are able to volunteer!



OPLATKI (Christmas Wafers) are available in both Churches or at the Rectory offices for anyone interested in purchasing them. The suggested offering is \$3 per package of 6 wafers.



ALMOST GONE! We have just a few St. Joseph Missals left for the new Cycle year A. As a gift to the parish, we have reduced the suggested offering to \$2 per missal.

RELIGIOUS GIVE THANKS. A sister writes, "We remember the many people who believe in the Retirement Fund for Religious, thanking them in prayer for their great generosity and compassion." God bless you for donating to last week's second collection. Visit retiredreligious.org to learn how your gift supports elderly sisters, brothers, and religious order priests.



THE FOURTH CANDLE ON THE ADVENT WREATH is often not lit for long. In fact, it habitually sets itself for display on next year's wreath. But this year it burns a little longer because the calendar lets us have a full week before Christmas. To me, that's a gift of time to ponder God's wondrous love for us poor sinners. He knows we are always in need of saving. Time is no obstacle to His will for us, & His love, 21 centuries after the fact of the First Christmas.

His gift to our human race then is hopefully our prime motive for the gifts we give others at this time of the year. But do we ever really give much thought to our gift to God? Of course, God does not need a gift, strictly speaking. In fact, Common Mass Preface IV puts it quite bluntly: "Although You have no need of our praise, yet our thanksgiving is itself Your gift, since our praises add nothing to Your greatness but profit us for salvation, through Christ our Lord."

Instead of our praise, may I suggest a revitalization of our obedience to God? I'm inspired to do so by the actions of our great St. Joseph, as recounted today from St. Matthew's gospel. We know Joseph is a man of action rather than of words, because we don't have one word from him in the Bible. When we watch him, & consider his situation, we see the stuff from which saints are made.

First of all, St. Joseph was not an old man, as many paintings & statues depict him. He was the Blessed Mother's contemporary, & she was young, perhaps even in her late teens.

So here is young Joseph, forced to deal with the fact that Mary, the love of his life, was "found with child through the Holy Spirit." Can you blame him for being heartbroken at first? So he prepares for divorce with a loving motive to do so quietly. Remember, in that bygone time, engagement was practically equivalent to marriage. So when an angel appeared in a dream & told him the complete story of the Holy Spirit's involvement, does Joseph balk? Get out of bed & rage against God? Act petulantly? No! As Matthew tells us in the last line of today's Gospel: "He did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him & took his wife into his home." Raw obedience with no frills or conditions attached. What a man! What a saint!

As I contemplate this, I feel a personal examination of conscience coming on. All about my own obedience to God's will. When I check back on my own past reactions to unexpected developments in my life, what was I like? After all, I'm a priest! I should know how to react. Then I turn to St. Joseph. Not as holder of glorious titles like "Foster father of Jesus." Or "Patron of the Universal Church." But just as a fellow man. Obedient to the point of being a leading role in the Christmas story we know. A candle in the darkness of a selfish, disobedient world. What more to say, but "St. Joseph, pray for us."

God love you & give you His peace.

Reflection by Rev. Leonard N. Peterson