

# Church of the Immaculate Conception

*Pastor: Rev. James J. Ward*

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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. 2019

To help prevent the spread of the disease and at the  
request of Governor Wolf,

Bishop Alfred Schlert has decided that

**ALL PUBLIC MASSES ARE SUSPENDED**

Mass intentions will be said privately by Fr. Ward.

**The Rectory office is closed to visitors,  
and will have limited hours.**

Please call or email if you have any questions or concerns.

Leave a message and we will return your call as soon as possible.

Staff will also be working remotely & can answer emails with more frequency.

My Dear Parishioners,

In the midst of these trying times, I regret the cancellations of all the Masses and religious services. The Bishop has taken these precautions for the health and wellbeing of all God's people.

I will celebrate Mass privately for the parish intentions and especially for the sick and elderly. St. Joseph Church will be open daily, by the side entrance for private prayer. Individual confessions will be available at Immaculate Conception on Saturdays from 3:00-4:00 p.m. and at St. Joseph Church from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Mondays.

Please check the bulletin and parish websites for information dealing with all parish business.

*May St. Joseph, Patron of the Church, continue to protect and guide us.*

Respectfully yours,



Rev. James J. Ward

## Fourth Sunday of Lent

Mass intentions will be said privately by Fr. Ward.

- Sat. March 21** Tracy McElmoyle, 45<sup>th</sup> bday (Mom & Dad)  
**Sun. March 22** Joseph Kehrli, dec. bday (Wife) / Virginia & Jake Llewellyn (Family)  
**Mon. March 23** Madeline Frantz (Charles Asman) / Jane Muth (F.Y.I.)  
**Tues. March 24** Mary McArdle (Ken & Rose McArdle) / Debbie Sulpizio (Patton Family)  
**Wed. March 25** Dorothy E. Yeakel (Michael Martino) / Mary Milan (Francene Strubinger)  
**Thurs. March 26** Patricia Trice (Joe & Tammy Schatz) / All Parishioners, Living & Deceased  
**Fri. March 27** Elizabeth Barry (Eleanor & Mary Jane Earley) / Dan Gallagher (St. Joseph Homebound EM)

### 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent

- Sat. March 28** Mary Agnes McElmoyle, bday (Ned) / Emil & Leo Bechtold (Charlie Wildoner)  
**Sun. March 29** James J. Zurn (M/M Robert Carroll) / Gloria Jean Sebelin (Frank & Ceil Sebelin)

THE SANCTUARY CANDLE burns in Loving Memory of *Tracy McElmoyle* (From, Mom & Dad)

#### WCC Question of the Week

Jesus helped a blind man see – and he helps each of us see the world differently. How do you see differently because you believe?

**FAMILY ACTIVITY:** Use a candle to communicate to your children the light of Christ. Pass the candle around to each family member. Have family members take turns telling the person holding the candle, what good things they see in him or her.

**PLEASE PRAY** for the soul of *Rasami Nester*, and *Bernadette McGinley*, and the souls of all the faithful departed.

**ALL EVENTS CANCELLED:** All non-sacramental functions at Immaculate Conception and St. Joseph Parishes are cancelled. This includes Stations of the Cross, Women's Club, Easter Egg Hunt, Bible Studies, Social Gatherings, Flame of Love, Rosary Groups, F.Y.I., & Choir practices. Mother Pauline's Thrift Shop will be closed until further notice. We are also postponing the upcoming Food/Garage Sale and Good Friday Fish Dinner @ SJC. These two food events will be held, but at a later date.

**PLEASE HELP US UPDATE!** As we are all experiencing, the news is changing rapidly. We realize that our contact information for many parishioners is outdated. If you cancelled your home phone & only have a cell phone, if you have moved, separated/divorced, have an email you would like us to contact you with, any family changes at all, please contact us to update our records. The more information we have the easier it is for us to reach our members. Thank you!

**BULLETINS:** The Parish bulletin will be available every week on our website. It will list the Mass intentions that Fr. Ward will be saying privately, along with any updates from the Parish and Diocese.

If you would like a printed version, copies will be available to pick up on the Rectory porch every Friday afternoon.

You can also subscribe to receive the bulletin by email with our bulletin company at [ebulletin.jspaluch.com](http://ebulletin.jspaluch.com), zip code 18229, and select Immaculate Conception to "subscribe". The bulletin will be emailed to you from our bulletin company, emails will not be used for any other purpose.

**"VIRTUAL MASSES"** The Diocese is exploring options to "participate" in Masses on TV and online. Check [ad-today.com](http://ad-today.com) for updates.

The Bishop also encourages the faithful to pray with their family members frequently, and to pray the Rosary as a family, both for those affected by this pandemic and for all those who care for the ill at home, as first responders, and in hospitals and other institutions.

**DONATION ENVELOPES:** We are exploring options to offer parishioners ways to help contribute to the parish during the pandemic, we may be offering electronic giving with a dedicated website through help of the Diocesan resources. Until we know more on how long Masses will not be public there are a few choices: You can mail a check with one of your envelopes to the rectory office; Drop envelopes/mail through the rectory office mail slot; Hold your donation until Masses resume. We ask that you combine your donation into just one weekly envelope, there is no need to return multiple envelopes. Thank you for your understanding and support.

## OPERATION RICE BOWL

### Me llamo Maria Ana. My name is Maria Ana.

Maria Ana is 16 years old. Serious and kind, she lives with her parents, four brothers and one sister in Honduras, a country in Central America. Her village, El Pinal, is surrounded by hills. Maria Ana speaks Spanish.



Maria Ana begins each morning by thanking God for a new day. After saying her prayers and taking a bath, she helps her mother make tortillas before she puts on her uniform and walks to school with her two younger brothers.

"I feel happy when I'm studying," says Maria Ana, whose favorite subjects are math, science and physical education. In school, Maria Ana also learns about ways she and her family can stay healthy, including washing fruits and vegetables before eating them. And, Maria Ana is able to bring some of that nutritious food home with her, thanks to the CRS school lunch program.

It is hard to study and concentrate in school if you are hungry. That's why CRS provides daily lunches and snacks at Maria Ana's school. Using ingredients from CRS—like rice, beans and milk—and vegetables donated by local families, the students' mothers volunteer at the school to make lunch and a snack for the students. Students will often bring containers to school with them, and save much of their lunch to take home and share with their families. "With the food that CRS is providing, we are able to get what we need to do our best at school—and at home," Maria Ana says.

Maria Ana is especially grateful to her father, Don Cristobal, for working hard to send her to school. "My father works every day to support us, to provide the food that we need and to earn money to pay for school."

### REMEMBERING VOCATIONS IN YOUR LENTEN DEVOTIONS ~ 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent ~

"Lent is a season of intense prayer, fasting and concern for those in need. It offers all Christians an opportunity to prepare for Easter by serious discernment about their lives, with particular attention to the word of God, which enlightens the daily journey of all who believe."

**EASTER BULLETIN DEADLINES** – Due to printing deadlines any information for the Palm Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup> Bulletin is due by March 25. Articles for Easter Sunday, April 12 are due April 1.



## ST. JOSEPH LUCK OF THE DRAW

### Congratulations to the March Winners!

<u>TICKET #</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>WINNER</u>
52	\$245	Connie & John DiJohn
229	\$226	Leo Marzen
4	\$205	Bobbie Brooks
74	\$187	Susan Heil
121	\$168	Barbara Smith
191	\$149	Sandy Walters
71	\$130	Bob Schaninger
93	\$110	James Kmetz
164	\$99	Bonnie Hoffman
94	\$81	Jeff Herman



### BEWARE OF THE DARK SIDE

Remember the Star Wars movies, in which the Dark Side was a symbol of evil? In our second reading Paul tells the Christians in Ephesus that they were once darkness. Paul uses darkness as a symbol of shame. Shame is not just sorrow for sins; it is the fear of being caught in sin, or of

telling our weaknesses to another because we think the other will look down on us. Or you might fear the punishment you think you deserve. Paul was a sinner himself and was blinded when Jesus appeared to him, asking, "Why do you persecute me?" So he knew that the only way to be free of shame is not to hide sins, but to expose them.

Does that mean we have to broadcast our sins on the evening news, or post them all on our social media pages? No; we just need to confess them to God and receive God's forgiveness. We can do this through the sacrament of reconciliation. The priest shows that God loves sinners, no matter what they have done. When you injure your arm, you explain how you hurt it, so the doctor knows how to treat it. If you wreck your car, you take it to the repair shop and tell the mechanics what is broken so they can repair it. In reconciliation we bring our sins to the priest so that we can experience forgiveness. You could leave your car at the shop overnight, with enough cash to make the repairs, but until you come back and claim your car, you will never know if it was fixed.

Sometimes other people try to shame us. In today's Gospel, Jesus' disciples asked whose sin caused the man to be born blind. The Pharisees told the man that he was born in sin. Jesus, however, told his disciples that the man had not sinned, and furthermore, the Pharisees themselves were the sinners because they had judged the blind man. So when we know that God forgives us and still loves us, we don't have to fear what others might think. Let us instead hold our sins up to the light of forgiveness and be free of our shame.

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