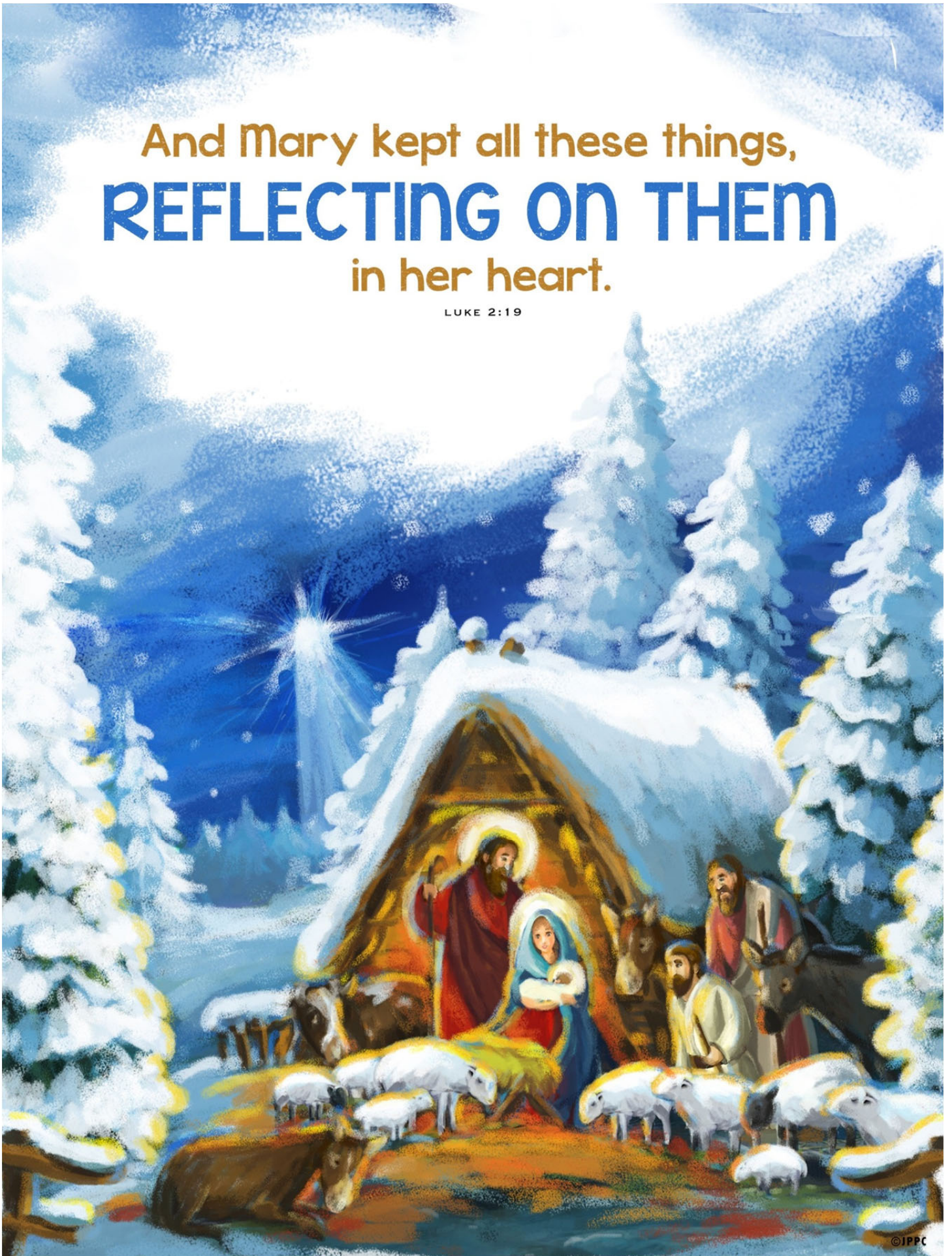


And Mary kept all these things,
REFLECTING ON THEM
in her heart.

LUKE 2:19



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. 1/2: RCIA, 6:30-8:30 pm
Tues. 1/3: Flame of Love Rosary, 8:30 am;
Wed. 1/4: Adoration, Noon-6pm; Divine Mercy Chaplet, 3pm; Confessions, 5pm @ ICC
Thurs. 1/5: SJ Choir, 6:30pm



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, Jan. 4
12 - 1 PM	Barbara Rodgers / Rita & Dcn Mroz
1 - 2 PM	Charlotte Kriley
2 - 3 PM	Louise Goldman / Anita Bott
3 - 4 PM	Louise Goldman / Anita Bott
4 - 5 PM	Pete & Maureen Gipprich / Dave Kriley
5 - 6 PM	Regina Rose / Marie Damian / Joan & Mike Suzadail / Mary Sauka

Lay Ministers Jan. 7/8			
Ministry	Sat. 4:30 pm ICC	Sun. 8:30 am SJC	Sun 10:30 am ICC
Lector:	Jay Miller	Vince Bokeko	James Novak
E.M.:	Rose Reese Maggie Dugan	Deacon Jack, J. Otto, G. Strubinger	Joe Lawrence



The Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother Of God

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

Sat. Dec. 31

4:30 pm (ICC) **All Our Parishioners, Living & Deceased**

Sun. Jan. 1

8:30 am (SJC) **Connie Marzen** (Ed & Helen Marzen)

10:30 am (ICC) **In Thanksgiving to the Blessed Virgin Mary** (Gedeon Family)

Mon. Jan. 2

Ss. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen

**** No Mass ****

Tues. Jan. 3

The Most Holy Name of Jesus

8:00 am (SJC) **Elizabeth Lennon** (John & Donna Lennon) / **Frank Moser, Sr.** (sister, Emily)

Wed. Jan. 4

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

12 Noon-6 pm *Exposition & Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament*

5:00-5:50 pm *Sacrament of Reconciliation*

6:00 pm (ICC) **Al "Butch" Heaney** (Carol, Pat, & Patrick Crowley) /

All Our Parishioners, Living & Deceased

Thurs. Jan. 5

St. John Neumann

8:00 am (ICC) **Loretta Kuzo** (Bonnie McElmoyle) / **Anne Borosh** (Ken & Patty McArdle)

Fri. Jan. 6

St. André Bessette

8:00 am (SJC) **Thomas Sheehan** (Elaine Watto) / **Marlin Pursley** (Gloria Kehrli)

Sat. Jan. 7

St. Raymond of Penyafort

9:00 am (SJC) **In Honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

9:30 am (SJC) *Rosary for Life*

The Epiphany of the Lord

Sat. Jan. 7

4:30 pm (ICC) **Al "Butch" Heaney, 5th Anniv.** (Family)

Sun. Jan. 8

8:30 am (SJC) **For the Health of Francis J. Bilsak** (Charles Haupt, III & Family)

10:30 am (ICC) **William McArdle** (Delray & John McArdle)



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH

BLESSED MOTHER CANDLE burns in *For a Special Intention*

SAINT JOSEPH CHURCH CANDLES

SANCTUARY: In Loving Memory of *Austin & Wilma Bott* (Requested by Bott Family)

HOLY FAMILY: In Loving Memory of *Anna & Edward Lienhard* (Requested by Daughters)

SAINT JOSEPH: In Loving Memory of *Francis O'Donnell* (Love, Joanne)

SAINT JOSEPH: In Loving Memory of *Eric Craigie* (Love, Nana)

PARISH STEWARDSHIP: 11/27/22: \$ 5,678.00

Thank you for your continued support & generosity.

THE RECTORY OFFICES

are closed for the Christmas holiday and will re-open on Tuesday, January 3rd. Messages and emails will be checked.



*A Blessed and Happy New Year
to all our Parishioners & Friends!!*

PLEASE NOTE: As of January 1st all parish donation accounts are closed for the year 2022. Any donations made on/after Sunday, January 1st will be credited for 2023.

THREE KINGS ~ Next Sunday we will celebrate The Feast of the Epiphany. We will have a special visit at Immaculate Conception by the Magi to commemorate the special meaning they have in our Christmas celebration.

THE 2023 MASS BOOK IS OPEN FOR REQUESTS.

Mass Intentions

Requests for specific dates can be scheduled through Immaculate Conception Rectory Office, 570-325-2791, Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri, from 8:30am to 2pm, or email iccjt@ptd.net. General Mass intentions without a specific date request can be done through either St. Joseph or Immaculate Conception Rectory. The Mass stipend is \$10/request. Please note that due to the high volume of weekend requests, a limit of two requests a year per family will be accepted for a Saturday vigil/Sunday Mass. Weekday Mass requests are not limited at this time.



BAPTISM CLASSES: Parents who wish to have their child baptized at Immaculate Conception Parish 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 Mroz and his wife Rita in the Brogan Room at St. Joseph from 6:30pm to 8pm. Class dates for 2023 are: Jan. 10, Feb. 14, Mar. 14, April 11, May 9, June 13, July 11, Aug.8, Sept. 12, Oct. 10, Nov. 14, Dec. 12. Please call either Rectory office to register.



WORLD DAY OF PEACE 2023 POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord God of peace, hear our prayer!
We have tried so many times and over so many years to resolve our conflicts by our own powers & by the force of our arms. How many moments of hostility and darkness have we experienced; how much blood has been shed; how many lives have been shattered; how many hopes have been buried . . .

Now, Lord, come to our aid! Grant us peace, teach us peace; guide our steps in the way of peace. Open our eyes and our hearts & give us the courage to say: "Never again war!" . . . Instill in our hearts the courage to take concrete steps to achieve peace.

Keep alive within us the flame of hope, so that with patience & perseverance we may opt for dialogue and reconciliation. In this way may peace triumph at last, & may the words "division", "hatred" & "war" be banished from the heart of every man & woman. . . Renew our hearts and minds, so that the word which always brings us together will be "brother", & our way of life will always be that of: Shalom, Peace, Salaam!
Amen.

OUR FASCINATING FAITH: *Resolve to Spread God's Mercy and Peace*

Imagine: two New Year's celebrations in little over a month! In late November, Advent began the new liturgical year, and today the secular New Year 2023 begins. In today's Gospel, everyone who heard it was amazed by the story the shepherds told of the angels' message regarding the child. Mary herself continued to reflect on all these things in her heart. With religious persecutions raging, international and domestic conflicts seething, our family and friends suffering various difficulties, and COVID not yet entirely in the rear-view mirror, not to mention our own personal problems, how much our world needs Jesus as another New Year veiled in mystery begins! As we pray for God's mercy to enfold our world and embrace each of us in 2023, let our New Year's resolution be to live for others, as Mary did, a channel of God's mercy and an instrument of Christ's peace.

© J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

Spotlight Advertiser of the Month

We would like to express our gratitude to our advertisers, for supporting our bulletin. Please remember to show your support & patronize their businesses.

David J. Stianche Funeral Home
570.325.8322 • www.stianchefh.com

If you would like to learn more about advertising, please call our Bulletin representative, Judy McNee, jmcnee@jppc.net, 203-856-9085.

Solemnity of Mary Window Candles at Immaculate Conception



In Loving Memory of David Formica, Love, Mom & Heather

In Loving Memory of Franklin & Susan Schatz, Love, Salli, Sarah, & Jake

In Loving Memory of Karyssa Schatz, Love, Salli, Sarah, & Jake

In Loving Memory of Vincent & Janice Teichert, Love, Lovi, John Vincent, Carla & Nicholas

In Loving Memory of Plesniarski Family, Love, Family

In Loving Memory of Michael & Pauline Kruslicky, Love, daughter, Pat

In Loving Memory of Mc Ardle & Yeastedt Family, Love, Family

In Loving Memory of Bobby Kuhn, Love, Patti & Tim Herman

HAVE YOU "PONDERED" ANYTHING LATELY? That means, have you thought really deeply and long over certain happenings in your life? That could refer to conversations, concepts presented to you, or any number of ideas that came to your mind. True pondering requires a prior attention, a certain "full bore" listening to someone else, and not any distracted half-hearing.

For example, a known dullard of your acquaintance might have been boring you to death describing his medical experiences so that your mind drifted and you started planning your lunch as he rattled on. You certainly were not pondering.

Another non-example of pondering might be your strong focus on the wrecks of a highway accident and the distraught faces of the victims by the road, so much so that you missed the warning about a dangerous physical problem your doctor just pronounced. You were not pondering over the doctor's words.

But there was that announcement by your doctor amid what you thought was a routine examination when she said: "Such and such is a quite common occurrence for someone your age." "Wow! What does that mean, and have I suddenly arrived at that age?" Later, driving home or sitting in your recliner, you start to ponder. You ponder over that and what it means for your immediate future and beyond.

Pondering admittedly takes up time and leads to an inner perspective of mind and heart about this adventure we call "life." Well did St. Luke write about Our Blessed Lady's reaction to news about her Son as reported by local shepherds.

Mary knew nine months prior that her Child was unique and special. After all, wasn't that what the Archangel who called himself Gabriel had told her? Then there were the difficult moments when she had to break the news to St. Joseph. Now, after the Child's birth, still more angels had "gone public," as we might say, with their news about the Child for the unsuspecting shepherds. Mary did not cry or protest, much less contradicted the shepherd-reporters. She just pondered.

We are amid the fast-paced days of the Christmas season. Celebrating, visiting one another, strengthening family ties. This past week, the Liturgy put us on an emotional "roller coaster" attached to Christmas week. St. Stephen's martyrdom gave us a jolt on the 26th. Two days later, the awful slaughter of the Holy Innocent babies by King Herod's brutes. All that and more.

So I pondered a bit myself this past week. That led me to ask you to "steal" some moments in the weeks ahead and many more times in the New Year, to ponder what happens to you. It's one healthy and spiritually profitable way to do what Our Mother Mary did all her earthbound days enroute to heaven.

God love you and give you His peace all through 2023!

Reflection by Rev. Leonard N. Peterson

