



† Schedule of Mass Intentions †		
St. Joseph's Saturday December 9 <sup>th</sup> ,	4:00 PM	Joseph and Barbara Zwack requested by Frank and Maria Zwack
Immaculate Conception Sunday December 10 <sup>th</sup> ,	8:30 AM	Grace and Joseph Hanson requested by Sister Madeline Hanson Rita Ratcliffe requested by Bev McClave
Monday December 11 <sup>th</sup> ,	11:30am	Mass at ICC / No Intentions Requested
Tuesday December 12 <sup>th</sup> ,	9:30am	Mass at St. Mary's in Nassau
Wednesday December 13 <sup>th</sup> ,	11:30am 7:00pm	Mass at ICC / No Intentions Requested Advent Penance Service
Thursday December 14 <sup>th</sup> ,	9:30am	Mass at St. Mary's in Nassau
Friday December 15 <sup>th</sup>	11:30	No Mass / No Intenentions
<b>Next Weekend</b>		
St. Joseph's Saturday December, 16 <sup>th</sup>	4:00 PM	Paul Aresta and George Chakonas requested by Joan Chakonas
Immaculate Conception Sunday December 17 <sup>th</sup> ,	8:30 AM	Natalie Huggins requested by Patrica Burnell Joan Darcy requested by Patrica Burnell

Sunday 11/26	Is 40:1-5, 9-11	Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14. R. v.8	Mk 1:1-8
Monday	Is 35:1-10	Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14, R. Is 35:4f	Lk 5:17-26
Tuesday	Zec 2:14-17	Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab	Lk 1:39-47
Wednesday	Is 40:25-31	Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10, R. v. 1	Mt 11:28-30
Thursday	Is 41:13-20	Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab, R. v.8	Mt 11:11-15
Friday	Is 48:17-19	Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6, R. see Jn 8:12	Mt 11:16-19
Saturday	Sir 48:1-4, 9-11	Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19, R. v.4	Mt 17:9a, 10-13
Sunday 12/3	Is 61:1-2a, 10-11	Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54, R. Is 61:10b	Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

Parish Weekly Income		Immaculate Conception	St. Joseph's
Regular Collection		\$802.00	\$597.00
Shrine Collection		\$320.00	N/A
Monthly Make UP		\$263.00	\$73.00
Hall Rental		40.00	N/A
Christmas Flowers		\$	\$20.00
Special Collections		\$90.00	\$

Volunteer Hours Contributors	Thanks to all the liturgical ministers and ushers for their continuing support.	
St. Henry's in Averill Park Saturdays 4:00 PM Sundays 8:00 AM, 9:30 AM and 11:00 AM Weekday Mass at 8:30 AM Saturdays 3:00 PM Reconciliation	St. Mary's in Nassau Saturdays 5:30 PM Sunday 10:00 AM Weekdays Tues, Wed, Thurs. 9:30 AM M & F 9:00 AM Communion Service	

 <b>St. Joseph's Church</b> Stephentown		 <b>Immaculate Conception Church</b> New Lebanon	
December 10 <sup>th</sup> , 2017		Second Sunday of Advent	
<b>Mass Schedule Weekends</b>	St. Joseph's Stephentown Saturday 4:00 PM	Immaculate Conception, New Lebanon Sunday 8:30 AM	
<b>Holy Day Schedule</b>	Vigil Mass 6:30 PM	Holy Day 7:00 AM	
<b>Week Day Mass:</b> 8:30 AM (Mon) at St. Henry's 9:30 AM (Tues to Thurs) at St. Mary's			
<b>Rectory</b>		<b>Mailing address</b>	
732 US 20 New Lebanon NY 12125		PO Box 218 New Lebanon NY 12125	
		E-Mail: <a href="mailto:icandsj@taconic.net">icandsj@taconic.net</a>	
<b>Facebook:</b> <a href="https://www.facebook.com/pages/Immaculate-Conception/144589758919250">https://www.facebook.com/pages/Immaculate-Conception/144589758919250</a>			

Pastor: Fr. John L. Close E-Mail: [frjohnc@taconic.net](mailto:frjohnc@taconic.net) Deacon: Peter Quinn  
 Office Manager: Elizabeth Keefner, Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 9:00 AM-12:00 PM, 1:00 PM-2:00 PM  
 Parish Council Members: Fr. John Close, Deacon Peter Quinn, Georgette Tefoe, Paula Beckwith, Yvonne Meekins (Presider), Frankie Zwack  
 Parish Nurse: Mary Linton R.N. – 733-0469  
 Knights of Columbus Grand Knight: Jack Lancto  
 Organist/Choir Director: Keith Dezieck  
 Building/Grounds Coordinator-David Schwartz 518-755-4739  
**Sick, Hospitalized or Housebound:** Please call the rectory to inform father of a sick or hospitalized parishioner.  
 Privacy laws make it very difficult to identify parishioners who are hospitalized.

**Our Mission Statement**

We are a community of believers who are grateful for our diversity & mindful of our unity in Christ. Our lives are based on faith, hope & charity through the outpouring of the Spirit, nourished by the Eucharist.

Our mission is to be communicators of God's grace and Christ's message to help people achieve salvation. We seek to build a Faith Community by enriching ourselves through Word and Sacrament. Our aim is to share our faith by teaching, personal witness and works of charity. Because we see in all people the image of God, we seek to relieve their physical, spiritual and emotional needs by involving all age groups within our parish.

**Parish Committees and Groups**

<b>Pastoral Council</b> meets first Tuesday of every month. (except July & December). <b>Next meeting: 02/06/2018</b> <b>Knights of Columbus</b> meets 3 <sup>rd</sup> . Wednesday of every month (except December). <b>Next meeting: 12/20/2017</b> <b>Senior Ministry Program</b> Luncheon is on 4 <sup>th</sup> Friday of the Month. <b>Next Event: 12/08/2017</b> <b>Liturgy Committee</b> meets on 2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month (except June, July & August). <b>Next Meeting: 12/11/2017</b> <b>Finance Committee</b> -meets on 3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday each month: Next meeting: <b>12/14/2017</b>	<b>Choir Rehearsal:</b> Tuesdays at 7:00 PM at Immaculate Conception Church. (except summer months). <b>Next Rehearsal 12/12/2017</b> <b>Exercise Group:</b> The exercise group meets Mondays and Thursdays in the Parish Hall from 9:00-10:00 AM. For more info, call Mary Linton at 733-0469. <b>Charlie's Pantry:</b> Hours for Charlie's Pantry are Tuesdays 3 PM to 6 PM, Saturdays 10:30 AM-1:00 PM or by appointment.
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**Rent Our Parish Hall:** Contact the rectory to schedule an event, party or meeting. 518-794-7651

# CHURCH NOTES

**Sacrament of Baptism:** Baptism Prep class first Monday of the Month.

**Sacrament of Marriage:** Couples considering marriage are asked to contact the parish 6 months in advance of the date they wish to be married.

**Mass Request Intentions** to be scheduled two months in advance. Please contact the rectory to schedule at 518-794-7651.

**Blood Pressure Clinic** held Third Weekend of the month (except May) following the masses.  
**Next Clinic: 12/16 & 12/17.**

**Please Pray for The Sick, Homebound and the Needs of the Community:**

Rose Alfonso, Ken Alywood, Alfred Barbara, Tommy Barry, Rhonda Thompson Beckwith, Mary Birch, Martha Burns, Baby Denny Chalecie, Travis Chuck, Paul Church, Sydney Davey, Joe Debella, Christopher Devaney, Jimmy Dillis, Susan Downey, Lynn Essex, Dave Fabinio, Hope Frer, Maureen Hammel, Cheryl Hattat, Louis Kolonics Jr., Janet Kroboth, Jean Lane, Pat Leavenworth, Alex Lewandowski, Arlene Longo, Joey Longo, John Maggio, Tony Maguffin, Kelly Ann McKeon, Kathy Millett, Melissa Murray, Ruth Reynolds, Paul Rizzo, Linda Schwartz, Bernadette Schimansky, Bernie Schmich, Marie Sharkey, Roland (Penny) Springer, Theresa and Larry Sweener, Brenda Trainor, Frank and Mary Volpi, Bobby Waters

**Military Personnel:** PVT. Austin Burnell, Sgt. William DeFreest, Rear Admiral James Downey, USN, PFC Andrew Madison, SPC Tom Madison, Maj Brian Meekins, Major Ryan Morgan,

**Please Pray for the Deceased:** John & Raymond Briggs, Carol Clements, John & Leila Del Cogliano, Joan Darcy, Tony Debella, Harry Downey Jr., Frank Gondar, Bob Gorman, Dick Griffin, Alice and Theresa Gunsell, Ralph Hermann, Natalie Huggins, Larry Hagan, Todd, and Tracy Hagen, Bob Mittnight, Helen and John Mullaly, Muro Family, Madonna O'Brien, James Redcross Sr., Dorothy Ryan, Donny Russo, Roman Family, Charlene Slattery, Joey Slaver, Leavenworth, Wagstaff, and Ravizza Families, David Zampella, Peter Nichols

**NEW TO THE PARISH?**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

If you would like more information about our parish, please mail to the address on the front of the bulletin or call 518-794-7651

***For Your INFORMATION...***

**SAVE THE DATE**

12/15 American Redcross Blood Drive  
12/20 Knights of Columbus Christmas Party

**This week's Collection**

*Regular Collection*  
*Immaculate Conception*

**Next Week's Collection**

*Regular Collection*

**Bishop's Appeal Update**

To date we have pledges totaling **\$17,905.00**, just a reminder that for every amount that we go over our goal, the Bishop's Appeal will send a portion of the difference back to the parish.


**Knights of Columbus Members**

**Please note some information has changed!** Christmas Party will be held on December 20<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00pm at the **Backwater Grill in Canaan, NY.** The cost is \$25.00 per-person, spouses and significant others are invited. Please **RSVP** to Deacon Peter Quinn as soon as possible. Check made payable to Knights of Columbus.

**Decorating ICC for Christmas**

Immaculate Conception will be cleaned and greened following the 8:30 mass on Sunday December 17<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers and cleaning supplies are appreciated.

**Blood Drive**

 The American Red Cross is hosting a blood drive on Friday December 15<sup>th</sup>, in the hall from 2PM until 6PM. If you would like to make an appointment, please visit their website at [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org).

**Christmas Flower Envelopes**

If you wish to purchase Christmas flowers for the Churches in memory of a loved one, you can do so by using the Flower Offering Envelopes. Envelopes are at the back of the churches and can be dropped in the collection basket.



**Note of correction on Dates:**

Cookies can be brought to the Parish Hall **on December 16<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM.**

Assembly will begin then. Volunteers to help us assemble would be greatly appreciated. Coffee, tea, snacks, and holiday music will be available. The pre-ordered cookies (and a few extra) from St. Joseph's will be available up at St. Joe's following the 4:00 PM mass on 12/16. Pre-orders from ICC (and a few extras) can be picked up at the Parish Hall after the 8:30 AM mass on Sunday 12/17.

**Parish Cookbooks**

Just an update we still have 12 Parish Cookbooks left, at \$10.00 they do make a great gift. Please contact Beth in the Parish Office to reserve a copy.

**Snow Removal and Volunteers**

As you are aware Immaculate Conception does have a snow plow service to keep the parking lot clear in the event of snow. It would be much appreciated, both at Immaculate Conception and St. Joseph's, if any able-bodied person could grab a shovel and help us keep the walkways clear of snow and safe for our parishioners. Many hands make light work, for more information or to volunteer please contact Beth at the Parish Office.



**The Giving Tree**

Thank you to all that are participating. Gifts are due back to the church on December 16<sup>th</sup> for St. Joseph's and December 17 for ICC.

**Remember to wash up**

How many times when we were a child did we hear our mother or father say, "remember to wash your hands"? This was part of our basic training to be sure that we stayed healthy and didn't bring dirt into areas that should be kept clean. This has become an even greater necessity in our current day and age. If we can't wash we look to use hand sanitizer to kill whatever might be harmful on our hands. Doctors, nurses and a number of other professions emphasize this even more, going through lengthy procedures to be sure all is ready for what they are about to do.

What about our faith? How do we clean our hands there? What practice do we undertake to be sure we don't come soiled into God's Jewish people had many customs that required cleaning

of hands, feet, garments and dishes. For that time in history this was highly unusual and set them apart from other peoples. The Catholic church has some customs that might be considers similar. When we enter the church we bless ourselves, we make the sign of the cross, we genuflect or bow before the Blessed Sacrament. Yet most of these are like hand sanitizer. They are stop gap measure, not the full thorough cleaning that should be done. What then is required of us? The answer comes from John the Baptist, as he calls the people to 'make straight his paths' and proclaims to them a baptism of repentance.

John does not give the baptism which forgives sins but prepares them to receive it from Jesus, the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.

The customs we use when coming into church and at liturgy prepare us for the reception of the Lord's forgiveness. It helps us to open our hearts and minds to the ways in which we have offended God. It allows us to see how much we need God's mercy. A mercy that can only be received through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. This sacrament is our spiritual hand washing. It is how we cleanse ourselves of our sins and return to the spiritual cleanness we had at baptism when God washed us of original sin and brought us into his family.

As we hear John's call to prepare the way this today then let us take advantage of the several opportunities we have over the next week to celebrate this sacrament and be prepared for the great celebration of the birth of Christ. *[Fr. John]*

**Communal Penance Services for Advent**

Date	Time	Place
Wed, 12/6	12:10 PM	St. John/St. Joseph Rensselaer
Mon, 12/11	7:00 PM	Holy Spirit - East Greenbush
Wed, 12/13	7:00 PM	Immaculate Conception- New Lebanon
Thurs, 12/14	7:00 PM	St. Mary Nassau
Fri, 12/15	1:00 PM	Holy Spirit School- East Greenbush
Mon, 12/18	7:00 PM	St. Henry's, Averill Park