

**FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**

**—On Friday, December 8<sup>th</sup>,** we celebrate the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is a **Holyday of Obligation**. The Feast celebrates the dogma of our Catholic Faith that Mary was sinless from the very moment of her existence (conception). This privilege was granted to her because of her mission to be the Mother of our Savior in order to make her a worthy dwelling for Him. Our Lady, under the title of Immaculate Conception, is the patroness of the United States. Schedule of Masses offered for the Holiday: Friday – 7:30 am – English  
Friday – 5:30 pm – English  
Friday – 7:00 pm – Spanish

**SEASON OF ADVENT**

On that first Advent, the Scripture reminds us: "I send my messenger before you to prepare the way of the Lord....Thus it was that John the Baptist appeared in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance which led to forgiveness of sin...." How are we preparing the way of the Lord? What can we do to make Advent count more in our lives? Try going to daily Mass. Get to Confession more frequently. Prepare to receive the Lord Jesus more worthily in the Holy Eucharist. Make kindness a big part of your life. Recite daily the Holy Rosary. Look for Christ in every person you meet today. During these four weeks of Advent, let us try to refrain from the worldly commercial spirit that surrounds us and think of the greatest event in the history of mankind; **the Eternal Son of God became man among us!** This marvelous and miraculous event took place among us on the first Christmas.

**THE ADVENT GIVING TREE**—Go into many stores and you cannot miss the fact that Christmas is soon approaching. Some of us have already begun to think about our Christmas shopping. Once again this season we invite our parishioners to do what we can to reach out to our parish families who are in need. The ADVENT GIVING TREE is placed in the vestibule of the church today, December 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>, the First Sunday of Advent. Please consider taking a "Giving Ornament Tag" and prayerfully fulfill the gift and return it to the church or parish office by December 17<sup>th</sup>, to be delivered in time for Christmas. Let us enter into the true spirit of Christmas; for we celebrate God's greatest gift to the world....the gift of His Son. Thank you to all who will participate.

**ADVENT PRAYER**

*Come and rest in our hearts this  
Advent Season.*

*Bless us and guide us as we await  
Your birthday.*

*With great joy and deep gratitude  
we look forward to this celebration of  
Your birth.*

*In these days of Advent, change us,  
Soften our hearts and forgive us our sins  
that we might greet You this Christmas  
with pure hearts, to forgive, hearts  
ready to celebrate.*

*Come Lord Jesus, and rest in our hearts  
this Advent Season and always.  
AMEN*

**ADVENT EVENING OF SONG**

Mark your calendars and be sure to join us for an evening of Christmas Hymns sung by our Parish Choir on **Friday, December 15 at 7:00 pm** in our church. Parishioners and friends are invited to enjoy the sounds of this beautiful season in preparation for the Birth of Our Lord on Christmas.

**MASSBOOK FOR 2018**—The Mass Book for next year is now available for the scheduling of Masses during office hours: Monday to Friday, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. We do not automatically reserve Masses from year to year. We ask for your consideration of all families when requesting weekend Masses. Mass intentions should be paid upon scheduling. Thank you for your kindness and consideration.

**YES, THERE IS A SANTA CLAUS**

*In fact, his feast day is celebrated annually on December 6<sup>th</sup>—feast of St. Nicholas. He is invoked as patron of young people and has become widely known as "Santa Claus," the distributor of Christmas gifts. As the Bishop of Myra in Asia Minor, he was noted for his charitable care of children and for his generous gifts to the poor. His relics are now venerated in Bari, Italy. This immense charity and compassion, which filled the holy Bishop, caused him to become "all things to all people." He demonstrated in his life the chief aim of our Catholic vocation, namely, to direct our lives and lives of all people to God.*

**MASSES FOR DECEMBER 4—10**

(Every Mass is offered for the faithful, living or dead.

However, the following are specifically remembered this week.)

**Monday, December 4**

7:30 am – August Franch  
7:00 pm – Mass in Spanish

**Tuesday, December 5**

7:30 am – Intention of Priest Celebrant  
6:00 pm – Eucharistic Adoration  
7:00 pm – Novena Services & Benediction

**Wednesday, December 6 – St. Nicholas**

7:30 am – Intention of Parishioners

**Thursday, December 7**

7:30 am – In Thanksgiving to St. Maria Goretti  
by a devotee

**Friday, December 8 – Immaculate Conception Of  
The Blessed Virgin Mary**

7:30 am – Holyday Mass – English  
5:30 pm – Holyday Mass – English  
7:00 pm – Holyday Mass – Spanish

**Saturday, December 9**

8:00 am – Deceased Members of Luigi Tirocchi  
Family

**WEEKEND MASSES**

5:00 pm – Deceased Members of Porreca Family  
by Andy & Rosalie

6:30 pm – Mass in Spanish

**Sunday, December 10—Second Sunday of Advent**

8:00 am – **Collective Mass**

Robert Joseph Carnevale by wife  
& family

Concetta & John B. Romano by  
grandsons

Eva & Pio A. Romano, Sr. by sons

Stephen & Pio A. Romano, Jr. by  
brothers Raymond & Ronnie

Deceased Members of Holy Name  
Society

Memorial Shrine Enrollments

9:30 am – Mass in Spanish

11:30 am – Peter Gallo, Jr. by family—3<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary

**MEMORIALS FOR WEEK OF DECEMBER 4-10:**

**Sanctuary Candle:** Dino LoPresti by Nancy  
Angelo Valentino by family

**Altar Bread & Wine:** Dino LoPresti by Nancy  
Angelo Valentino by family

**BAPTIZED IN CHRIST:** Jade Farrales

**SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

**Monday, December 4**

7:00 pm – Ladies Guild Meeting, RH

**Wednesday, December 6**

6:30 pm – Ladies Guild Christmas Party

**Saturday December 9**

10:00 am – CCD Classes – 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> years

1:00 pm – Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting, RH

**Sunday, December 10**

**Second Collection:** Retirement Fund for Religious

**+WEEKLY CHURCH SUPPORT+**

**What Our Lord Asks is**

**Not Equal Gifts—But Equal Sacrifice**

(logo from Increase Giving Campaign)

Weekend of November 18–19

Envelopes & Loose Collection: **\$3,406.00**

Second Collection: Campaign for  
Human Development **1,022.00**

Total Income **\$4,428.00**

Our sincere thanks to all those making our  
Increase Giving Campaign possible

**RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS—**

Your donation to the Religious Retirement Fund for Religious supports the day-to-day care of thousands of elder sisters, brothers, and Religious order priests. Give generously to the Second Collection on December 9 & 10.

**SPONSORS FOR OUR BULLETIN**

Because our weekly parish bulletin can no longer be paid by ads on the back page, we are hoping to help defray this expense by asking parishioners to come forward each week with a donation of \$50.00. Sponsoring the bulletin can be written in three ways: (1) This week's bulletin is sponsored by (name of sponsor) or (2) This week's bulletin is sponsored in memory of (a deceased loved one) or (3) this week's bulletin is sponsored in memory of (a deceased loved one) by (name of sponsor or sponsors). Call the parish office if you wish to help.

*This week's parish bulletin is  
sponsored in memory of*

**PETER GALLO, JR.**  
*by family*