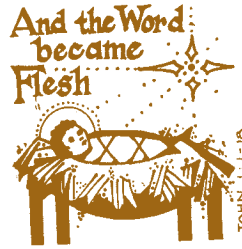


Immaculate Conception Church

Parish Established 1856

Parish Website: www.iccdudley.com
Diocesan Website: www.ajdiocese.org



NATIVITY OF THE LORD
December 25, 2011

REV. BERNARD L. WHITE, PASTOR • 1416 DUDLEY ROAD, P.O. BOX 188, DUDLEY, PA 16634 • (814) 635-2919

Calendar

- ◆ **Choir Christmas Music**
11:30 PM Christmas Eve
- ◆ **Midnight Mass** 12:00 PM
Saturday Dec. 24th
- ◆ **Christmas Mass** 10:00 AM
Sunday Dec. 25th
- ◆ **Mary, Mother of God**
Holy Day of Obligation
Sunday January 1st
- ◆ **Maintenance & Repairs**
Collection Dec. 31st–Jan. 1st
- ◆ **Prayer Group** 6:30 PM
Friday January 6th
- ◆ **Parish Council** 7:00 PM
Monday January 9th
- ◆ **Big B Bingo** Doors Open
5:30 Sat. January 14th

Mass Intentions

Sat. Dec. 24	MIDNIGHT MASS
11:30 PM	12:00 PM ... Giornesto Family by Jo and Bill Kelly
<i>Christmas Music by Choir</i>	<i>Lector: Bruce Crawshaw. Eucharistic Ministers: Mary Duwall, Dan Reed, Judy Ford</i>
Sun. Dec. 25	NATIVITY OF THE LORD
	10:00 AM ... Patty Black by daughter and son-in-law Eugennie and Zane Treece
	<i>Lector: Katie Fink. Eucharistic Ministers: Zane Treece, Eugennie Treece, Robert Shaw</i>
Mon. Dec. 26 ...	10:00 AM ... Gene Mancini by Robert Cialone
Tue. Dec. 27 ...	10:00 AM ... Pastor's Mass
Wed. Dec. 28 ...	10:00 AM ... Sandy Erwin (mema) by grandchildren, Katelyn, Zane and Logan
Thur. Dec. 29 ...	10:00 AM ... Health of Jeannine Kuffner by friends, Zane and Eugennie Treece
Fri. Dec. 30	(No Mass)
Sat. Dec. 31	5:30 PM ... Dean Gracey by wife, Pookie and Family
Sun. Jan. 1	9:00 AM ... Dolores White by friends, Ed and Becky Stefancik

Liturgical Reflection:

Revised Book of Worship

On Christmas at the Creed we genuflect at the words of the Incarnation, “and my the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.” As the Church celebrates the annual feast of the Incarnation of the Lord, the Creed states the unique relationship between the Father and the Son. Jesus Christ is “consubstantial with the Father.” Consubstantial describes the relationship between Jesus and the Father. The Latin words *consubstantialem Patri* mean having the same substance as the Father. The Church clearly states this Christmas Day that Jesus is divine and shares the same life of God the Father.



The Unexpected

What is it about the unexpected that can sometimes either throw us for a loop or fill us with joy and anticipation?

It's Christmas. I think of Mary, the mother of Jesus. Such a young girl when she learned of her destiny. How shocked she must have been to learn she was “with child” and how unbelievable considering she was told that her baby was conceived by the Holy Spirit! In Mary's day a girl who became pregnant before marriage was at great risk. If the father of the baby rejected her she would probably never marry and could be forced into begging or prostitution. And in Mary's case—to tell anyone that she had conceived the way she did might have caused people to think she was delusional! But even as fear tried to take over, she trusted the Lord and said “May it be as you have said” (Luke 1:36).

God chose to send us His Son, our Savior, through an unexpected pregnancy. Jesus began sharing His time of earth in the womb as a beautiful baby and how thankful and joyful we are that He came!

Recently I met with a couple attending a local college. They too are facing the unexpected. They came for a pregnancy test and options counseling at Crossroads. “Hannah” left the room to prepare for the test. Her boyfriend “Chris” whispered, “**This is so hard.** Hannah wants an abortion but I don't like the idea of abortion at all. She and I talked about adoption but I don't think I can do this with *my baby.*” My heart went out to him because I could see the conflicting emotions he had in his heart. Hannah returned and the test was run—it was positive. I proceeded to counsel as we do at Crossroads—giving them all the facts, talking about their concerns—offering life giving possibilities and praying with them. They readily agreed to an ultrasound as soon as it could be scheduled.

Hannah was farther along than we thought—12 weeks. She and Chris saw a beautiful, waving, dancing baby through the window of ultrasound. The doctor came to talk to me before the couple came back to the waiting room and his first words were “**This is so hard.**”

I talked with Hannah and Chris again ... she still wants the abortion—and Chris was fighting tears because in his heart he knows this is wrong—but he is helpless because it is *her* choice. I offered as much help as I knew how and I hugged them both and said I would talk to them soon.

From past experience I knew I had to leave it in the Lord's hands. I went back to my car and wept and prayed for this baby and for this couple and the pain that comes with this decision. Then in church today the Lord reminded me that He can do such amazing things. I had to repent of having given up hope in this situation. The story is still being written. So I and other prayer partners continue to pray knowing hope does not disappoint and that God can make all things new. So no matter what the outcome—He is Sovereign and has a specific plan and purpose in it all.

It is hard ... to trust when things look impossible. **It is hard** ... to shine the light of hope in dark places. But it is **NOT hard** to praise a God who can do the impossible! Just as He did that first Christmas morning by bringing hope to the world and great joy in the unexpected.

Blessings to you this Christmas Day — from Cindy Mansberger, Executive Director of Crossroads Pregnancy Center.

March for Life

Please show your pro-life support at the annual **March for Life** in Washington on Monday, January 23rd. Talk to Barb Miller so we know whether we have enough to charter our own bus, or possibly join with another area parish or group. For example, Bedford County Citizens Concerned for Human Life and Crossroads Pregnancy Center are both arranging for buses.

Collection Report

Receipts for the weekend of Dec. 17th–18th \$1,617

And the Winner Is...

Last week's **300 Club** winner is Cathi Kay Beatty, sold by her dad, Tom Matthews.

Word Play

Santa's helpers are subordinate clauses.

FOR ALL YOU LEXOPHILES

For unto us a Child
is born ... and His
Name shall be called
Wonderful, Counselor,
Mighty God,
Everlasting Father,
the Prince of Peace.



A Most
Blessed Christmas
to All

*from Father White and the
staff of Immaculate Conception*

