Church of the Immaculate Conception

Pastor: Rev. James J. Ward

Rectory office: 9 a.m.-12 p.m., Mon-Fri. Closed Wed.
570-325-2791 • iccj@ptd.net • www.iccjimthorpe.org

Whole Community Catechesis (WCC): wccjt@ptd.net
St. Joseph Pre-School: 570-325-3186

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. 19

Mass Schedule
Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 8:00 a.m. at St. Joseph Church
Tuesday and Thursday: 8:00 a.m. at Immaculate Conception Church
Saturday Vigil: 4:30 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Church
6:30 p.m. at St. Joseph Church
Sunday: 8:00 a.m. at St. Joseph Church
10:30 a.m. at Immaculate Conception Church

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:
Saturdays: at ICC 3:45 p.m. to 4:15 p.m.; at St. Joseph: 6:00 p.m. to 6:20 p.m.
 anytime upon request

TAKE A STEP

How do you listen to God? While it might seem as though it is impossible to hear God’s voice, the more we listen, the more attuned we become to hearing. We listen in prayer, in reading the Bible and hearing sacred scripture, in the homily, and in the prayers during Mass. We listen in the companion-ship of other faith-filled friends who share their hopes and dreams with us, and who help us discern what God may be calling us to do. Abram heard God’s voice and opened himself to the unknown, Peter, James, and John followed Jesus, even while still unsure about him or his mission. Each took steps toward faith, and in faith followed God’s way. Whether in times of certainty, when it seems God is everywhere we look, or in those periods when we yearn to know that God is with us, we are called to listen, to trust, and to take steps of faith, modeling our lives on the life and call of Jesus Christ.

At times, the steps we take feel more like leaps of faith. While we might be called to “walk the walk” of faith in our daily lives, as the apostles and countless other disciples have throughout the ages, there are moments when we may need to step out into an unknown future, as did Abram before us. The glimpses of God’s presence and glory experienced by Abram and the disciples provided needed encouragement at pivotal moments, and especially when it seemed for a while that God was absent. The glimpses we perceive in those moments of closeness with God help us to remain on Christ’s path, especially when we are unsure of what to do next. With the psalmist, take a leap of faith and find hope in the Lord: “The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom should I fear? The LORD is my life’s refuge; of whom should I be afraid?”

Today’s Readings: Gen 15:5-12, 17-18; Ps 27:1, 7-8, 8-9, 13-14; Phil 3:17 — 4:1 [3:20 — 4:1]; Lk 9:28b-36
Liturgical Schedule ~ Second Sunday of Lent

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

**Sat. Mar. 16**
4:30 pm (@ ICC)  Joseph Capozzoli (Tom & Vera Larney)
6:30 pm (@ SJC)  Chris Testa, 1st Anniv. (David & Kathy Testa)

**Sun. Mar. 17**
8:00 am (@ SJC)  Otto Herman, bday (Daughter, Pinky) / Living & Deceased Parishioners
10:30 am (@ ICC)  Dennis & Margaret Dugan (Hugh D. Dugan)

**Mon. Mar. 18**
8:00 am (@ SJC)  Joseph Martino (Paul Martino) / Jean Small (Joe McDevitt)

**Tues. Mar. 19**
8:00 am (@ ICC)  Michael James (Family) / Betty Brennan (Marge & Sam Smith)

**Wed. Mar. 20**
8:00 am (@ SJC)  Margaret Anne Forment (sister, Sue) / Louise Thear (Mauch Chunk Pharmacy)
  6:30 pm @ ICC  Stations of the Cross

**Thurs. Mar. 21**
8:00 am (@ ICC)  Special Intention of Glenn McFarland, Jr. (Bill & Nancy Mason) / Carolyn Leffler (Joanne & Joseph Ogozalak)

**Fri. Mar. 22**
8:00 am (@ SJC)  Mr. & Mrs. Eugene & Kathleen Binder (Walt Fagan) / George Lepak (Snerr Family)
  6:30 pm @ SJC  Stations of the Cross

**Third Sunday of Lent**

**Sat. Mar. 23**
4:30 pm (@ ICC)  Matthew Reabold (Dave & Mary Figura)
6:30 pm (@ SJC)  Living & Deceased Parishioners

**Sun. Mar. 24**
8:00 am (@ SJC)  Deceased Members of the Izzo Family (Family)
10:30 am (@ ICC)  Tracy McElmoyle, 44th Bday (Mom & Dad)

| Lay Ministers for the Weekend of March |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Ministries:      | Saturday 4:30 p.m. | Sunday 10:30 a.m. |
| Lector:          | J Miller         | J McGuire         |
| E.M.:            | B Miller         | M McGuire         |
| Altar Servers:   | J & J Behrens    | Z Zum, M Malaska, N Sully |

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM ~ THE LORD IS MY LIGHT AND MY SALVATION.**

**BLESSED MOTHER CANDLE** burns in Loving Memory of Tracy McElmoyle (By, Mary Ailis)

**THE SECOND COLLECTION** this weekend is for Insurance.
Next weekend’s collection will be for St. Vincent de Paul.

**EASTER FLOWER MEMORIAL DONATION ENVELOPES** are included in your packet of mailed envelopes. Please mark the back of the envelope to be included in the booklet printed for Easter Sunday. You may donate in Memory of a Loved one, or In Honor of, or for a Special Intention. The suggested donation is $10. Please return the envelope to the Rectory no later than Monday, April 1st to be included in the booklet.

**THERE WILL BE A WOMEN’S CLUB MEETING** on March 21, at 7pm in McGinley Hall.

**WCC Question of the Week**
When has prayer changed you?

**FAMILY ACTIVITY:** Make a cross for the refrigerator as a reminder that there is no struggle this week that cannot be overcome with the help of Jesus.
EASTER EGG HUNT~ The Women’s Club will be holding an Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 6, 2019 at 12:00 Noon at the Jim Thorpe Memorial Hall. All children of the parish, including grandchildren of parish members, are invited.

**ALL ARE INVITED TO JOIN IN A "TRADITIONAL MARRIAGE ROSARY RALLY"** on Saturday, March 23rd at 12 Noon, in front of the Carbon County Courthouse in Jim Thorpe. For more info or questions call Susan 484-464-5886 or Marion 484-432-5654.

2019 ECCUMENICAL ROSE BREAKFAST – Ladies All women from the local church are invited to attend the Annual Breakfast program at Grace-St. Paul’s United Methodist Church, 40 Church Rd. Jim Thorpe, on Sat. April 13, 9:30am-12noon, for fun, food, fellowship, and an inspirational message. Call Barbara or Dottie at 570-325-8328 or email barmumma@ptd.net to register. Seating is limited so registration is required. Guest speaker, Nancy Magargle, topic is “Who Am I”. She addresses a question which sounds simple, but has kept people scratching their heads and searching their hearts. “Who are you?” More specifically, Who are you in Christ?

**THE BIG THREE**

- **Fasting** is not just a spiritual diet. By denying our bodies, our physical hunger reminds us of the hunger of our souls for God, our longing for a deeper relationship with our Lord.
- **Almsgiving** teaches us to separate ourselves from material possessions. By freely giving of our money and possessions, we learn to trust the Lord more deeply for our own daily needs.
- Finally, an emphasis on **Prayer** during Lent is a way to stir up our love and ardor by having a deepening conversation with the Almighty. Remember that the light of God’s love shines more brightly in the darkness of the recognition of our own sinfulness.

**LENTEN RETREAT ~ WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE TO REALLY FOLLOW JESUS? Into His Likeness: Be Transformed as a Disciple of Christ,** Sat., March 30, 8am-12pm @ Shrine of St. Therese, Nesquehoning. Registration 7:30-8am, 8am Adoration/Stations of the Cross, 9am Mass, 9:30am Breakfast, 10am Keynote Reflection by Sr. Rose Bernadette Mulligan, IHM, 11am Reflection by Fr. Hoffa, 12pm Retreat Dismissal. Cost: $15 includes breakfast & retreat materials & gifts. We ask that everyone attending registers before the retreat. You can register by calling the St. Joseph Parish of the PV Rectory Office at 570-645-2664 or by emailing lisassjpv@gmail.com.

**COMMISSION FOR WOMEN HOSTING LENTEN EVENT:** The Commission for Women invite all women to “Breakfast with the Bishop” event on Saturday, April 6, beginning with daily Mass at 8am at the Cathedral of St. Catharine of Siena, Allentown followed by Recitation of the Rosary, Breakfast and a Lenten Reflection by Bishop Schlert. Please join us as we gather together during this season of Lent for Prayer and Fellowship. To register, visit allentowndiocese.org/cfw-spirituality. Questions, email cfw@allentowndiocese.org or call Susan Teaford at 610-207-5763. Cost is $12.

**WORK IN OUR SCHOOLS!** Join the Diocese of Allentown Catholic Schools at a Regional Career Fair on Sunday, March 24, 2019 to learn about how you can work in our schools! Come to either the Berks/Schuylkill County Career Expo at Berks Catholic High School 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. or the Lehigh/Northampton/Carbon Career Expo at Bethlehem Catholic High School 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

**ALL-YOU-CAN EAT BREAKFAST:** The Damien Council KofC will be hosting an all-you-can eat breakfast at St. Peter & Paul Parish hall, Lehighton this Sunday, March 17 from 8:30am to 12noon. Donation of $8/adult & $4/child. Featured will be eggs, pancakes, waffles, home fries, bacon, sausage, juices & coffee. All parishioners of Immaculate Conception, St. Josephs and St. Peter & Paul are welcome as well as their friends and families.

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**Lenten prayers and devotions**

Here are ways to boost your spiritual life during Lent:

- **Begin each morning with the prayer:** “Lord, I offer you this day, and all that I think, and do, and say.”
- **Attend Daily Mass as often as possible.**
- Pray the Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary.
- Make the Stations of the Cross at home or in a parish celebration.
- **Read Scripture for 10 minutes every day.**
- Pray the Seven Penitential Psalms (Psalm 6, 31, 50, 101, 129 and 142).
- **Spend some time in quiet prayer before the Blessed Sacrament.**
- Abstain from meat for an extra day or two each week.
- **Listen to CDs of spiritual music or a spiritual speaker.**
- Keep a Lenten journal with your spiritual insights, special intentions, people you want to pray for, hurts and disappointments that you want to offer up, and progress reports on your Lenten resolutions.