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Church, please call the office at  
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request a registration form .

# St. Mary and Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parishes

**December 5, 2021 - Second Sunday of Advent**



**The solemnity of  
Immaculate Conception  
of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

**December 8, 2021**

**Holy Day of Obligation**

**Masses as follows:**

**Tuesday, Dec. 7  
St. Mary - 7:00pm**

**Wednesday, Dec. 8  
Assumption - 7:00pm**

**St. Mary Parish**  
607 East Main Street  
Reynoldsville, Pennsylvania 15851  
814-653-8586  
Email: stmaryschurch2@verizon.net

**Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish**  
20 Shaffer Street (P.O. Box J)  
Sykesville, Pennsylvania 15865  
814-894-2772 Social Hall 814-894-7981  
Email: abvmchurch20@gmail.com

**Pastor – Father William R. Barron**

**Deacon Stephen D. Rowan**

**Shared contact information:**

**Web address:** [www.stmarysassumption.com](http://www.stmarysassumption.com)

**Parish app:** search "myParish – Catholic" to download app

**Fax number:** 814-653-2769

## Mass Intentions

- Monday, December 6 –St. Marys 5:00pm**  
Karen Wells  
By Joyce Snyder
- Tuesday, December 7—St. Marys \*\*7:00pm**  
Evelyn Hoare  
By Jackie & Dude
- Wednesday, December 8 –Assumption\*\*7:00pm**  
Rita Geist  
By Tim, Mary & Autumn Carlson
- Thursday, December 9—St. Marys 5:00pm**  
Mary Lou Johnson  
By Cheryl, Ron, & Maddie Hannah
- Friday, December 10— No Mass**
- Saturday, December 11- St. Marys 4:30pm**  
Samuel Earley  
By Donna & Family
- Sunday, December 12- Assumption 8:30am**  
Alan Towns  
By Steve & Barb Cook
- Sunday, December 12- St. Marys 10:30am**  
All Parishioners of both Parishes

## Sacrificial Giving

<u>Nov. 28</u>	<u>St. Mary</u>	<u>Assumption</u>
Collection	\$1,827.00	\$2,188.00
Electronic Giving	395.00	212.00

*Thank you for your generosity!*

## CSA—Catholic Services Appeal

	<u>St. Mary</u>	<u>Assumption</u>
CSA Goal	\$20,301.00	\$19,312.00
CSA Paid	\$20,569.48	\$16,930.86

**Thank you for your continued support.**

## Sanctuary Candles

### In Memory of:

- Betty McGreevey** By: Barb Murray & Family  
By: Jackie & Dude Beers
- Daniel Filer** By: Barb Murray & Family  
By: Mary & Joe McCluskey
- Jodee Carlson** By: Peggy Pennington
- Dr. Earley** By: Madeline
- Frank Krajewski** By: Betsy & Jeff Stover

### **William & Helen Pagnetter**

By: Barb Murray & Family

## Ministers Schedule for December 11-12, 2021

	<b>4:30pm</b> <b>(St. Mary)</b>	<b>8:30am</b> <b>(ABVM)</b>	<b>10:30am</b> <b>(St Mary)</b>
<b>Altar Server</b>	<b>R. Whipple</b>		
<b>Eucharist Minister</b>	<b>L. McGranor</b>	<b>Deacon Steve</b>	<b>D. Dennison</b>
<b>Lector</b>	<b>M. McCluskey</b>	<b>P. Roman</b>	<b>D. Bowley</b>

## Information

### Prayer Chain

St Mary 653-2752  
Assumption 661-3894

### Anointing of the Sick :

Call Fr. Barron 814-503-0028

## Parish Spotlight ~ The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception This feast honors Mary, the Mother of God, and celebrates the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary in the womb of Saint Anne.

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception is also the patronal feast of the United States as well as Argentina, Brazil, Korea, Nicaragua, Paraguay, the Philippines, Spain, and Uruguay. It is also a Holy Day of Obligation. In the United States and other countries, the bishops have received permission from the Vatican to abrogate (temporarily waive) the requirement for Catholics to attend Mass on certain Holy Days of Obligation when those Holy Days fall on either Saturday or Monday. Because of this, some Catholics have become confused about whether certain Holy Days are, in fact, Holy Days of Obligation. However, if December 8 falls on a Sunday (as in, for instance, 2019), the celebration of the Immaculate Conception is transferred to Monday, December 9. This is because Sundays in Advent take precedence over any other feast. When the celebration is transferred, rather than naturally falling on a Monday, the obligation to attend Mass does not transfer with it.

The Feast of the Immaculate Conception, in its oldest form, goes back to the seventh century, when churches in the East began celebrating the Feast of the Conception of Saint Anne, the mother of Mary. Today, we also celebrate the conception, and nine months later, on September 8, we celebrate the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

As originally celebrated (and as still celebrated in the Eastern Orthodox Churches), however, the Feast of the Conception of Saint Anne does not have the same understanding as the Feast of the Immaculate Conception has in the Roman Catholic Church today. The feast arrived in the West probably no earlier than the 11th century, and at that time, it began to be tied up with a developing theological controversy. Both the Eastern and the Western Church had maintained that Mary was free from sin throughout her life, but there were different understandings of what this meant.

After Duns Scotus's defense of the Immaculate Conception, the feast spread throughout the West, though it was still often celebrated at the Feast of the Conception of Saint Anne. On February 28, 1476, Pope Sixtus IV extended the feast to the entire Western Church, and in 1483 threatened with excommunication those who opposed the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception. By the middle of the 17th century, all opposition to the doctrine had died out in the Roman Catholic Church.

On December 8, 1854, Pope Pius IX officially declared the Immaculate Conception a dogma of the Church, which means that all Christians are bound to accept it as true. As the Holy Father wrote in the Apostolic Constitution *Ineffabilis Deus*, "We declare, pronounce, and define that the doctrine which holds that the most Blessed Virgin Mary, in the first instance of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege granted by Almighty God, in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, the Savior of the human race, was preserved free from all stain of original sin, is a doctrine revealed by God and therefore to be believed firmly and constantly by all the faithful."

- Mary Carlson



## PARTNER PARISH NEWS      DECEMBER 5, 2021

**HOLY DAY MASS SCHEDULE:** THE SCHEDULE FOR THE SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY IS AS FOLLOWS: TUESDAY, DEC. 7TH - 7 P.M. AT ST. MARY'S PARISH. WEDNESDAY, DEC. 8TH - 7 P.M. ASSUMPTION PARISH.

**SCRIPTURE SHARING:** The Sisters of Mercy from the Rural House of Mercy continue to invite anyone who desires to explore and enter into the Scriptures, particularly the Gospels, to gather with them in St. Mary's social hall on Wednesday, December 8 at 10:00 am. The reading for this month's gathering will be Luke 2: 1-14. Printed copies of the reading will be available. Anyone is welcome!

**ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE SCHEDULE:** OUR ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICE WILL BE HELD AT ASSUMPTION PARISH ON MONDAY, DEC. 13TH AT 7 P.M. VISITING PRIESTS WILL BE ON HAND TO ASSIST FR. BILL IN HEARING CONFESSIONS.

**CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAS COURT ST. MARYS** will hold their annual Christmas Party on Monday, Dec 13 at 6:00 pm at the Bellamauro Restaurant in Reynoldsville. Cost is \$18. Please call either Pam Krajewski 591-8923 or Angela Deemer 590-4634 to make reservations by Dec 6. We will also once again this year be collecting baby items for the Catholic Charities baby closet.

**BECOMING A CATHOLIC: Are you or someone you know interested in becoming a Catholic?** If so, please contact Deacon Steve at the parish office by Sunday, December 19th. We will begin instructions for those interested in becoming Catholic very soon.

**PASTORAL PLANNING SURVEY:** The Regional Pastoral Planning Committee is comprised of 3 members from each of the following parishes: Assumption, St. Bernard, St. Catherine, St. Mary, and St. Michael. The priests and deacons of these parishes also participate, along with the facilitator, Jenn Zaffuto. It has been charged by Bishop Persico to collect and disseminate information, assess strengths and weaknesses, and make recommendations for action plans for our 5 local parishes. All registered households of both Assumption and St. Mary's Parishes received a mailing from the committee with a survey. **Please return your survey to the parish office or collection basket by the weekend of December 4/5. Fr. Bill Barron**

**POSTURE CHANGE AT MASS:** As has been discussed over the past few weeks, beginning the weekend of Nov. 27/28, the people will kneel from the end of the Lamb of God until they come up to the Communion Procession Line. They will kneel (or if unable to kneel, be seated) when they return to their pew after receiving Holy Communion. They will stand when the priest says, "Let us pray". This is a liturgical change made by Bishop Persico.

**CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE:** Please note that it is changed from previous years  
Friday, December 24th: 4 P.M. at St. Mary's Church; 6 P.M. at Assumption Church  
Saturday, December 25th: 8:30 A.M. at St. Mary's Church. No 4:30 P.M. Mass will be offered.  
Sunday, December 26th: 8:30 A.M. at Assumption Church; 10:30 A.M. at St. Mary's Church.

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS** will have their Christmas party on Friday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at St. Mary's Church Social Hall. For reservations, call Joe McCluskey at 653-2589 by December 10<sup>th</sup>.

**A WALK THROUGH BETHLEHEM:** The Paradise Community United Church of Christ will be having their presentation of "A Walk Through Bethlehem" on Saturday, December 4<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, December 5<sup>th</sup> from 6 to 8 p.m. You are invited to begin your 2021 Christmas celebration with a journey to the little town of Bethlehem. It will be held at the Paradise Community United Church of Christ Youth Center, 4336 Big Run Prescottville Road, Reynoldsville, PA. For more information or directions, call 814-427-2701 or 814-653-2474.

**PRAYER:** In preparation for All Souls Day (November 2nd) Deacon Steve would like to share a prayer from St. Gertrude the Great. She had a vision of our Lord in which He promised her that each time this prayer was said, a thousand souls would enter heaven and end their time in purgatory. The promise encourages us, then, that our prayers for the souls of the faithful departed are effective.

"Eternal Father, I offer you the Most Precious Blood of your Divine Son, Jesus, in union with the Masses said throughout the world today, for all the holy souls in purgatory, for sinners in the universal Church, those in my own home, and within my family. Amen. We encourage to pray this prayer daily and fill heaven with the souls of the faithful departed!"

**CATHOLIC SERVICES APPEAL:** Thank you to all who are supporting this year's Diocesan Services Appeal, the CSA. We are making good progress on receiving your pledge payments. Please note that if you made a pledge and intend to fulfill your pledge, you need to do so by the end of the calendar year 2021. Fr. Bill

**VOCATIONS CROSS -** Since 2018, we have been sending around to parish homes a Vocations Cross. This Cross comes with a binder that contains prayers to be said with the Cross. When the Cross becomes available at the beginning of every month, would you please consider taking it home with you? It is a small thing to ask, just some simple prayers that God may bless His church with more seminarians. Thanks for your consideration. Fr. Bill Barron

**HOSPITAL VISITATION:** The hospital has resumed the normal procedure for priests visiting patients. Fr. Matias has resumed his role as chaplain. Fr. Walk is no longer chaplain. Parish priests are now allowed to visit the hospital as well.

**CONFESSIONS:** Confessions will be available after all masses at both churches with the exception of Sunday 8:30 a.m. Mass at Assumption because I need some travel time and set up time for 10:30 a.m. Mass at St. Mary's. Fr. Barron

**SIGN UP FOR THE PARISH APP:** Text APP to 88202 to download our parish app. 1) Download my Parish App 2) Select our Parish after opening.

**ONLINE GIVING:** Visit our parish website on the homepage and click on your parish icon to take you to the portal for online giving registration, or press the icon on the myParishApp called giving to take you to the portal.

### ST. MARY'S NEWS

**WELCOME:** Jaxson and Gabriella Ferrara, son and daughter of Bryce Ferrara and Jennifer Himes, who were initiated into their faith through Baptism last Sunday, November 28<sup>th</sup> here at St. Mary's Church.

**ROSARY & ALTAR SOCIETY** will have their Christmas party on Monday, December 6<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. in our Social Hall. Members are asked to bring items for the Residents of Christ the King Manor.

**PARISHIONERS** are asked to bring items to share with the residents of Christ the King Manor for Christmas. (hand cream, socks, puzzle books, shampoo, toothpaste...). Your items can be placed in the box found inside the front door of the church.

**TREASURES FOR CHILDREN:** Thank you to all who took a tag. What wonderful parishioners we have!!! **Please bring the gifts, not wrapped, with the tag to the church no later than Sunday, December 12<sup>th</sup>. Thank you!**

### ASSUMPTION'S NEWS

**FLOWER MEMORIALS** – In your packet of contribution envelopes you will find an envelope designated for Christmas Flowers. Please use this envelope for your Christmas remembrances of Deceased Loved Ones by writing their names on the envelope and dropping it in the collection basket or the mail slot at the rectory office now through December 19<sup>th</sup>. Your remembrances of your Loved Ones will be used as an insert in the bulletin for the weekend of December 26<sup>th</sup>.

**OPLATKI** – Oplatki will be distributed the weekend of December 18/19<sup>th</sup> Oplatki prayer and 4 wafers will be for you to celebrate the beauty of Christmas in one of its most beautiful forms.