



ST. MICHAEL / IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCHES

PASTOR: FATHER LARRY GEARHART

Parish 834-2664 - Fr. Larry's cell: (937) 414-7977



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

P.O. Box 444

164 West Elm Street
North Lewisburg, OH

43060

MASS

Sunday - 10:30 am

Tues & Thurs - 6:00 p.m.

Reconciliation

Thursday - 5:00 pm

ST. MICHAEL CHURCH
40 Walnut Street
Mechanicsburg, OH
43044

MASS

Saturday—5:00 pm

Sunday - 8:00 am

Monday - 12:00 Noon

Mon & Wed - 6:00 pm

Reconciliation

Wednesday - 5:00 pm

Sunday, August 29, 2010
Twenty Second Sunday of Ordinary Time

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, Aug. 29 5:00 PM Saturday BVM's Intentions	Mon., Aug. 30 SM 6:00 PM Pro-Populo	Wed., Sept. 1 SM 6:00 PM Maria Hodge
8:00 A.M. Marcy Bauman	Tues., Aug. 31 IC 6:00 PM Pro-Populo	Thurs., Sept. 2 IC 6:00 PM Rosella Tanner Virginia Reid
10:30 A.M. Margaret Smith		

Offerings: SM: (8/22) \$737.⁷⁷ IC: (8/22) \$772.⁰⁰

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION: 10:30 AM - SUN. SEPT. 5

Extraordinary Minister - **Nick Berick**

Lector - **Lynn DiLoreto**

Servers - **Joe DiLoreto & Gary Edwards**

SAINT MICHAEL: 8:00 AM ON SUNDAY SEPT. 5

Extraordinary Minister - **Judy Dunham & Cindy Dennis**

Lector - **Charles Kingrey**

Servers - **Tom Segreti & Rob Segreti**

SAINT MICHAEL: 5:00 AM ON SATURDAY SEPT. 4

Extraordinary Minister - **Jennifer Dietrich**

Lector - **Jacob Dietrich**

Servers - **Stephanie Dietrich**

VOCATION VIEW

Humility is needed for those
who choose to serve.
Recognize your gifts and offer
them in humble service.

(Luke 14: 1, 7-14)

PRAYER ~ PRAYER LIST ~ PRAYER

Bob Langen	Bernice Arthur	Brian Violet
Family of	Jane Kemper	Mary
Jake Jeffrey	Janet Adduchio	Tonneman
Family of	Pam Jewett	Jim and Jan
Robin Smith	Sandy Boggs	Knapp
Family of	Bob Bradshaw	Janet Bollack
Jerry Arthur	Emily Smith	Betty Asterino
Sondra Chester	Stephanie	Jim Nobile
Jim & Mary	Birdsall	Avitt
Hearlihy	Charlene	Schwieterman
Frank Jenkins	Murray	
Peg Baltes	Donna Canan	
Jane Toops	Harry Lutz	

HAVE SOMETHING FOR THE BULLETIN?

Send your information to **Annie Colliflower** no later than **Tuesday** by email (preferred) at anniecolliflower@verizon.net or by mail at 7031 St. Rt. 187, Mechanicsburg 43044-9530 or by phone at 834-3784.

ST. MICHAEL NEWS

Capital Campaign as of 7/11/10

Pledged/Donated _____ **\$60,919.76**

Received to Date _____ **\$41,929.76**

Due on Pledges _____ **\$18,990.00**



Our Parish Picnic will be Saturday, September 11th at the Goshen Memorial Park.

It is a potluck, and please bring your own plates, etc. We will begin gathering at 2:00, eat at 3:00, and have Mass at 5:00. Non-parishioners may come to Mass - and to the picnic if they wish. **THERE WILL BE NO SATURDAY MASS AT THE CHURCH ON SEPTEMBER 11th AS IT WILL BE AT THE PARK.**

- The grass blown onto the church steps and sidewalk needs to swept after each mowing! There is a broom in the back of Father's house. ANYONE can sweep to help out the mowers. THANKS!!
- We could still use some more Eucharistic Ministers for the Sunday Masses. Anyone who is interested should contact Diane Ziegler at 834-3498.
- CHURCH CLEANERS NEEDED for one week a month. - Please sign up by contacting Vicki Rammel at 834-5186. Many hands make for light work!
- A list of cost down/income up suggestions were inserted in last week's bulletin - Your input and additional suggestions are welcomed. Please contact Kay Miller, Judy Geers or Kelli Black.
- One potential cost down for the Parish is the distribution of bulletins by email. We realize this will not work for everyone, but if it will work for you, please provide your preferred email address to Annie Colliflower at anniecolliflower@verizon.net
- Potential date for the Spaghetti Supper is November 14, 2010. Please provide your feedback on the date to Kay Miller.
- A new sign up sheet has been posted for Sunday Social Hour. It allows you to sign up for the same week every month--or for specific Sunday(s). Please remember, you are welcome to attend even if you do not sign up to provide food. We do not all serve the Lord in the same way. Based on feedback from the surveys, we also will probably plan for only one Sunday a month during the summer.

2009-2010

Saint Michael Parish Council

- Joe Schaffner, Chair** 768-2551
Peg Baltes, secretary834-2516
Debbie Bethel.....243-5691
Kelli Black834-3460
Roger Geers..... (740) 506-1171
Mary J Huffman834-3845
Jeff Lyons..... (937) 390-2015
Diane Ziegler834-3498

NEXT MEETINGS: September
All parishioners are welcome!

PRAYER NEEDS: Peg Baltes
834-2516 - p_baltes@hotmail.com

ST. VINCENT de PAUL GUILD
Scott Spinner 834-1710

CARING KITCHEN
Jennifer Dietrich 834-2706

MASS MINISTRIES: Diane Ziegler
834-3498 - dziegler1@verizon.net

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION NEWS

- **We would like to invite all of our parish families and friends to our Fall Festival in cooperation with the Covered Bridge Festival sponsored by the Municipal of North Lewisburg and Union County on Saturday, Sept. 11th.** Our Parish will be sponsoring a breakfast followed by games, items for sale, and snack items for sale. All of our activities will be held down at the N.L. Ballpark including the breakfast as there will be a Girls National Softball Tournament being played throughout the weekend. Soon we will be soliciting your help! Times for the events will follow.
- **If you are interested in being a lector, please contact Jayne Leiter at 747-2812 or after a mass!** Thank you for your consideration.
- Due to the Labor Day weekend falling on the first Sunday of the month and our Fall Festival the next weekend, **we would like consideration be given to having our monthly brunch on Sunday, Sept. 19th.** Let's decide!!
- **The next Adult Bible Study will be held on Sunday, Sept. 19th at 9:15-10:15 A.M.** We are discussing the changes that will soon come into effect in regard to the Creed. All are welcome!
- You may **donate to the Caring Kitchen** by placing items in the basket in the Church entrance. Thank you for your generous efforts.

Immaculate Conception Parish Council

Nick Berick, Chair747-3780
Missy Bradshaw747-2663
Lynn DiLoreto.....465-2999
David Johnson.....747-3000
Mary Fogle-Kise935-2531
Fred Lorenz747-9455
Missy Masters.....747-2925

Chris Phelps,
Bulletin Liaison: 653-4920
Donna Canan,
Prayer Concerns: 653-5315

You may be a Franciscan when you: * Notice an unmistakable lack of desire to acquire more stuff * You want to dress (and LIVE) more and more simply * You like all St. Francis statues, even the ones with birds. * You can sing "Make Me a Channel of Your Peace" without every looking at a hymnal. — The Secular Franciscan Order was established over 800 years ago by St Francis of Assisi with Papal canonical approval. The SFO has a constitution/statues and is worldwide. — More information will be published in your church bulletin. Until then PEACE and ALL GOOD! www.nafra.org or www.holytrinityregionsfo.org.

FROM THE DESK OF *FATHER LARRY GEARHART*

AUGUST 29, 2010

Heads Up

Both St. Michael's and Immaculate Conception are on the threshold of beginning their main construction projects. My congratulations to the committees who worked so hard in planning and fundraising. My thanks to all who have contributed their time and treasure to make these projects happen.

These projects have been a team effort. Both parishes have demonstrated strong leadership as well as patience and careful examination of all the available options to achieve primary objectives.

Immaculate Conception's building project has a very modest beginning, but there is no sacrifice of quality, knowing full well that the construction should stand for many decades of service to the parish community, and knowing that there must be sufficient flexibility to add on to the structure without major structural rework.

For its part, St. Michael's has had to make very difficult trade-offs as well in order to maintain the liturgical and structural integrity of the existing space while accommodating the construction of a new handicapped entrance.

We anticipate that there will be time to spare in the months remaining to complete these projects before the weather proves to be an obstacle.

Spiritual Focus

One of the more distinctively Catholic habits in a liturgical assembly is the empty first pew. Catholics don't like to "sit up front." In part its because of what Jesus says in today's reading from the Gospel of Luke.

When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet,
do not recline at table in the place of honor.

A more distinguished guest than you may have been invited by him,
and the host who invited both of you may approach you and say,
'Give your place to this man,'
and then you would proceed with embarrassment
to take the lowest place.

Rather, when you are invited,
go and take the lowest place
so that when the host comes to you he may say,

'My friend, move up to a higher position.'
Then you will enjoy the esteem of your companions at the table.
For every one who exalts himself will be humbled,
but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.

Or so the theory goes.

But, what would it say if I went to someone seated in the last pew and invited them to sit in the first pew? How would they be likely to respond? My guess is they would be extremely embarrassed and they would resist accepting the invitation. Why? What is there to be embarrassed about?

If you ever had the experience of being asked by your teacher in grade school to come and "sit up front," you may have an inkling of what's going on. We're all much more conspicuous when we're in the front row, right under the teacher's gaze. It's almost as frightening a prospect as being asked, for the first time, to come up and read the first reading at Mass.

Deep down in our gut, we lack self-confidence. Doing something for the first time is scary, particularly when we're doing it in front of a bunch of people. It helps a little if they're people we know, particularly if we know them well and we feel they know us well. Even so, going "on display" for the first time exposes something about us even our close associates may not have seen before.

What does this have to do with today's Gospel?

It has to do with the people Jesus is speaking to. They are people who are accustomed to thinking of themselves as special. They're used to being "on display." They are typically the leaders in their community, and they want people to treat them as such. They are people filled with a sense of entitlement.

Jesus' intention in relating this parable is to remind these community leaders that they're not as special as they think they are, particularly in God's eyes. God wants them to be prepared for the big shock of their lives, seeing him promote someone they thought of as insignificant ahead of them in heaven.

Fighting Our Way Back to Normalcy

The St. Michael's parish picnic is coming on September 11th this year. This coincides with Immaculate Conception's Fall Festival, a new tradition begun last year. It also coincides with the Dayton Pro-Life Science and Technology Symposium, at which I have been invited to give a morning presentation. It's a whole lot of normalcy happening on one day!

Of course we will all be mindful of that tragic day nine years ago when the World Trade Center and the Pentagon were attacked by Al Qaida Islamist extremists. Thousands of Americans lost

their lives in these attacks and thousands more died in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. It's a day that forever altered our sense of what is normal in international relations. Our conflict with Islamic extremism is hardly concluded and is likely to remain a major feature of our political and social landscape for decades to come, if not centuries.

It will also be almost two years following the bankruptcy declaration of Lehman Brothers that helped to precipitate the panic in the financial sector, though this one company is hardly to blame for the systemic crisis. The result has been a painful reassessment of assets as well as a severe credit retrenchment in all sectors of the economy. As such, this was a day that permanently altered our sense of what is normal in the economy.

I'm sure all of us have seen steep rises in our credit card interest rates, and, if we're wise, we're doing what we can to pay down our debts as fast as we can.

Cutting spending and paying down debt will have unavoidable negative consequences in the economy as a whole, at least for the near term. Nevertheless, when we pay down our debts, that releases capital into the markets for more productive purposes. It also reduces our debt burdens, the interest rate charges on outstanding debt. In the long run, it is good medicine.

Given the ideological conflicts in Washington politics and the lack of a productive political and economic policy consensus, our efforts to get our own houses in order will continue to be like struggling to swim upstream against a strong current. The temptation to lay the blame for all of our difficulties on the politicians in Washington, however, should be studiously avoided.

It has been said that "charity begins at home." So do virtue and responsibility. We would do well to bear this in mind when we think about how we should share in the responsibility for climbing out of our current difficulties.

We might do well here to recall the prayer that has been attributed to Reihnold Niebuhr:

God, grant us the...
Serenity to accept things we cannot change,
Courage to change the things we can, and the
Wisdom to know the difference
Patience for the things that take time
Appreciation for all that we have, and
Tolerance for those with different struggles
Freedom to live beyond the limitations of our past ways, the
Ability to feel your love for us and our love for each other and the
Strength to get up and try again even when we feel it is hopeless.