



Community
FAITH
Growing Support
for

Immaculate Conception Parish
308 Second Street
Irwin, PA 15642

Dear Parishioners,

In many ways, March 17, 2020, marked a significant change in my life, my ministry to you and my beloved parish. My worst nightmare was realized as I celebrated the Feast of Saint Patrick. That evening I knew that the pandemic would cause us to close the doors to our gathering for sacred Mass. I knew our planned baptisms and weddings would be placed on hold due to the closure. Even funeral Masses were halted, which placed a great strain on families who were grieving the death of a loved one.

At first, I felt that I would be handicapped by this absence of our gathering, but the spirit of the Lord gave us another way to reach out and deal with the fears and doubts that the pandemic cast upon our lives. The creation of Operation Safe Mode (OMS) allowed me to come into your home celebrating sacred Sunday Mass and sharing weekly messages of hope and teachings. We created a new focus on "Staying Safe in the Lord" while realizing we were being forged through this process into a deeper love of Christ and His Church!

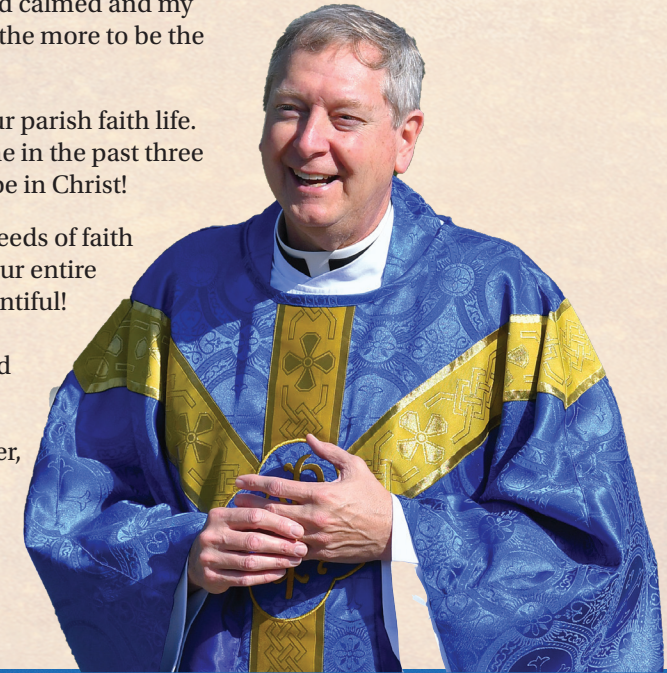
As the pandemic began to slow via the availability of the vaccination, and all seemed to be returning to normal with the Sunday Mass attendance increasing weekly, I was then faced with another great personal challenge. I was diagnosed with stage 4 pancreatic cancer. Just when I thought the seas had calmed and my ministry would return to its original form, I would be challenged personally all the more to be the shepherd of such a great flock!

However, I refuse to allow a pandemic, cancer or any other ailment to define our parish faith life. It can only be defined by love! The outpouring of love that has been shown to me in the past three months epitomizes the type of support and love we share in our mission of Hope in Christ!

I wanted to realize that through it all, our parish has continued to nourish the seeds of faith that have been planted, seeking to care for the spiritual and material needs of our entire parish community. The good news in all of this is that the harvest has been bountiful! In fact, the support provided by you for me and all the faithful has been just remarkable. The pandemic or my diagnosis could not dampen our true love and faith in the Lord.

I want to sincerely thank you for all that you have given to our parish. Remember, your contributions keep this parish vibrant and impactful. Please remember your parish this year, and prayerfully consider increasing your stewardship so we can continue God's work.

Yours in Christ,
Father John



Flowers that Feed the Soul: Our Ministry Listing

- Altar Servers / Acolytes
- Music Ministry
- Ministry to the Homebound
- Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion
- Religious Formation Leaders and Youth Ministry Leaders
- Lectors
- Ushers
- Children's Liturgy of the Word
- Landscape Committee
- Theology on the Vine
- Decorating Committee
- Burger Bash / Fish Fry Volunteers
- Comfort Blanket Ministry
- Immaculata Women's and Men's Groups
- Christian Mothers / Women's Guild



Cultivate the Garden Within: Capital Improvements



Your contributions to our parish help maintain the facility, making it the center of prayer in our community. Over the last three years, we completed repairs and renovations to the second floor of the administration building, painted the inside of the church, completed the new church terrazzo floor

project, and updated the electrical/heating/air conditioning on the third floor of the administration building. Our most recent improvement project was refinishing all church pews and unity chairs. We also completed installation of new pew and unity chair cushions and new kneeler pads.

Parish Financials

	2020-21	2019-20	2018-19
Offertory	\$ 1,165,376	\$ 1,093,771	\$ 1,153,251
Other Ordinary Income <i>(monthly collections, votive candles)</i>	23,817	25,974	15,795
Extraordinary Income <i>(bequests, donations, fundraising, interest, rental income)</i>	79,272	82,827	83,298
Diocesan Lenten Appeal Refund	104,075	86,087	56,838
Other Non-Assessable Income <i>(The Catholic Accent, sale of property, insurance reimbursements, and PPP Loan)</i>	74,578	167,769	61,305
Special Collections	12,001	27,275	28,668
Total Income	\$ 1,459,119	\$ 1,483,703	\$ 1,399,155
Expenses			
Administration	\$ 310,090	\$ 286,718	\$ 252,947
Church	99,014	104,573	114,230
Rectory	6,587	6,280	6,671
Education and Ministry	229,558	236,950	264,447
General Expenses	399,894	418,861	392,157
Special Collections	12,001	27,275	28,668
Extraordinary Expenses	433,654	238,331	498,938
Total Expenditures	1,490,798	1,318,988	1,558,058
Net Operating Income (Loss)	\$ (31,679)	\$ 164,715	\$ (158,903)

Our Garden



Registered Households

2021: 2,467
2020: 2,513
2019: 2,519

Single Member Households

517



Baptisms

2021: 65
2020: 61
2019: 75

Weddings

2021: 23
2020: 18
2019: 24



Funerals

2021: 80
2020: 84
2019: 60



Weathering COVID-19

Just as God has provided for you, you have provided for our parish. Your investment is like the tilling of the soil, helping us to grow stronger. Despite the pandemic, our parish offertory remained strong, primarily through your weekly contributions and further assisted by online giving and our record-breaking Diocesan Lenten Appeal.

Our parish, particularly our societies, suffered from the loss of fundraising monies. The past two years, Fish Fry Fridays (FFF) were canceled, and Christian Mothers' card parties and other gatherings were impossible to resume with social distance restrictions. These events, including the Burger Bashes, have been a revenue source that aided many projects, outreach programs and parish expenses.

Traditionally, each fall we talk about "Taking the Next Step" toward tithing. Tithing is the 10% of our income that we offer back to God as "First Fruits," instead of an offering of convenience or of our surplus. Giving first to God always reminds us that his generosity is a gift and that gift must provide the seed for the garden of faith. We would hope that you will consider an increase of your weekly contributions again this year based on the graph below. Taking the next step is a small increase but becomes effective when it is joined with each family of the parish. Our new online giving site, osvhub.com/icirwin/funds, helps greatly in the consistent gift-giving method for our modern lifestyles! I thank you in advance for your willingness to help us grow the faith in the future by your financial generosity and prayers!!

TAKING THE NEXT STEP!

As you begin your discernment process, please consider the following steps: 1) your current offering; 2) consulting the sacrificial giving guide below; 3) moving a percentage or dollar amount forward; and 4) promising yourself to maintain this new level.

Current Household Income				Weekly Gift to the Parish (Rounded to the nearest \$)								
Hourly	Weekly	Monthly	Yearly	1%	1.5%	2%	2.5%	3%	3.5%	4%	4.5%	5%
\$4.80	\$190	\$835	10,000	2.00	3.00	4.00	5.00	6.00	7.00	8.00	9.00	10.00
7.20	290	1,250	15,000	3.00	4.00	6.00	7.00	9.00	10.00	12.00	13.00	14.00
9.60	385	1,665	20,000	4.00	6.00	8.00	10.00	12.00	13.00	15.00	17.00	19.00
12.00	480	2,085	25,000	5.00	7.00	10.00	12.00	14.00	17.00	19.00	22.00	24.00
14.50	575	2,500	30,000	6.00	9.00	12.00	14.00	17.00	20.00	23.00	26.00	29.00
16.75	675	2,915	35,000	7.00	10.00	13.00	17.00	20.00	24.00	27.00	30.00	34.00
19.25	770	3,335	40,000	8.00	12.00	15.00	19.00	23.00	27.00	31.00	35.00	38.00
24.00	960	4,165	50,000	10.00	14.00	19.00	24.00	29.00	34.00	38.00	43.00	48.00
29.00	1,155	5,000	60,000	12.00	17.00	23.00	29.00	35.00	40.00	46.00	52.00	58.00
33.50	1,345	5,835	70,000	13.00	20.00	27.00	34.00	40.00	47.00	54.00	61.00	67.00
38.50	1,540	6,665	80,000	15.00	23.00	31.00	38.00	46.00	54.00	62.00	69.00	77.00
43.50	1,730	7,500	90,000	17.00	26.00	35.00	43.00	52.00	61.00	69.00	78.00	87.00
48.00	1,925	8,335	100,000	19.00	29.00	38.00	48.00	58.00	67.00	77.00	87.00	96.00
57.70	2,308	10,000	120,000	23.00	35.00	46.00	58.00	69.00	81.00	92.00	104.00	115.00
72.10	2,885	12,500	150,000	29.00	43.00	58.00	72.00	87.00	101.00	115.00	130.00	144.00

Ways You Can Give



BY MAIL:

Immaculate Conception Parish
308 Second St., Irwin, PA 15642



IN PERSON:

8:00AM - 4:00PM



ONLINE:

osvhub.com/icirwin/funds