

# Immaculate Conception R.C. Church    Our Lady of the Lake R.C. Church

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## Pastoral Team

Rev. Fr. Paul T. Hancko, Pastor

Rev. Deacon Stephen Palmer



# *Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God*

## THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

### SUTTON - MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS

Mon.	Jan 2	<b>+Phyllis Kaiser</b> req. Deacon Don & Debra McMillan
Tues.	Jan 3	<b>8:30am: Blessings upon John McEleny</b> req. Helen Bromley
Wed.	Jan 4	<b>8:30am: Blessings upon Mark Quigg</b> req. L. Holmes
Sat.	Jan 7	<b>5:30pm: +Jack Kelly</b> req. the Ward's
Sun.	Jan 8	<b>8:30am: +Charles Savoie</b> req. Beatrice Savoie

### CONFIRMATION SACRAMENTAL PREP

Please read the assigned book. **Parents or Sponsor** ask the **Candidate questions**. Here are some suggestions: 1. What happened at Pentecost? 2. What are the symbols of the Holy Spirit? 3. What is Grace? **Reminder:** Continue to check the website for the most up-to-date information.

### 1ST HOLY COMMUNION PREP

Please read the assigned book. **Parents or Sponsor** ask the **Candidate questions**. Here are some suggestions: 1. What is the 1st sin of Adam and Eve called? 2. Was anyone ever free of this sin? 3 Who are the Mother and Father of Jesus? **Reminder:** Continue to check the website for the most up-to-date information.

**2023 SUNDAY DONATION ENVELOPES** are ready for pick up in the foyer of both churches.

### 2022 INCOME TAX RECEIPTS

Once again, the Archdiocese will prepare and mail out the income tax receipts.

### 2022 SACRAMENTS

Baptisms:	26
Weddings:	1
1 <sup>st</sup> Holy Communions:	56
Confirmations:	40
Funerals:	6

**Thank you** to everyone who decorated the churches for Advent and Christmas and to all who helped with Ministries.

*Happy & Blessed New Year to everyone  
under the Protection of Our Lady.  
From Fr. Paul, Deacon Steve and staff.*

### KESWICK - MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS

Thur.	Jan 5	<b>8:30am: +Virginia Ewashko, Jean Ewashko &amp; Family</b> req. Florence Casciano
Fri.	Jan 6	<b>8:30am: +Casciano &amp; Ewashko Families</b> req. Florence Casciano
Sat.	Jan 7	<b>4:00pm: +Steve Aultman &amp; Aultman Family</b> req. the Smith's
Sun.	Jan 8	<b>10:30am: Blessings &amp; Health upon Perry Smith</b> req. Donna Perri

**PARISH DEBT as of December** \$88,000

### PRAYER FOR BENEFACTORS

Heavenly Lord, I ask you to pour out your blessings on those who have helped me along my way, whether I am aware of their contribution or not. Bless those who brought me up in life and faith, those who worked to make my life easier, those who befriended me along the way, those who prayed and offered sacrifices for me, and those who gave their lives for my welfare. Grant your blessing to all of them whether they are living or dead, and bring them all into the glorious light of your eternal Kingdom.

### PRAYER FOR OUR PARISH

Heavenly Father, you have chosen the parish as the vehicle by which you encounter us in our daily lives. The parish is the assembly in which your Word is proclaimed, your Eucharist is celebrated, your people are united in a local community and also into smaller groups so that they may become the agent of change for the betterment of the whole Church. Make our parishioners aware of the many opportunities and responsibilities that are theirs as witnesses of you to our age. Keep us open to our need of your love and fellowship. Let both religious and laity work together to serve you in others. Amen.

### PRAYER TO OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

O Purest Virgin of Guadalupe, obtain for me from your Divine Son the forgiveness of my sins, blessing for my work, remedy to my diseases and needs, and everything that you think it is convenient to ask for me and my family. O Holy Mother of God! Do not despise the supplications that we address to you in our needs, before ridding us of all dangers. O Virgin full of glory and blessing! Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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**HOW THE TRADITION OF THE CHRISTMAS  
CRIB WAS STARTED**

**Christmas in Greccio, Italy 1223**

In the year 1223 St. Francis of Assisi came to the town of Greccio where he communicated with a devout, pious man by the name of John, a man of good reputation and an even better life.

Our blessed saint said to John: "Let us remember the little child who was born in Bethlehem, let us remember the discomfort of the baby's needs, laying on the hay in a manger, with an ox and an ass standing by.

When the day of the celebration came people of the area lit up candles and torches. St. Francis saw everything and was very glad. Simple poverty and humility changed this place in Greccio into a new Bethlehem. The people were filled with anticipation. The saint of God was overcome with joy and filled with great happiness.

The solemnity of the Holy Mass was celebrated over the manger and St. Francis, as the deacon that he was, sang the Gospel with a strong voice and then preached to the people about what had happened in Bethlehem.

He spoke of the nativity of the poor King and called the baby the Child of Bethlehem.

There was a virtuous man who then witnessed a little child laying lifeless in the manger and he witnessed our holy saint go up to it and rouse it from deep sleep. It was as if the Child Jesus had been forgotten and was brought back to life again through his servant St. Francis.

After the celebration they took the hay from the manger for safe keeping. Many animals were healed from their illness after eating of this hay, pregnant women delivered safely when some of that hay was placed on them and many of the sick people were healed too through this hay.

Later an altar was built on the place where the manger had stood and a Church was erected.

May God grant everyone a very Blessed Christmas. peace and all good. – *From Secular Franciscans*

**EPIPHANY OF THE LORD – January 6**

The solemnity of the Epiphany, which is Greek means *Manifestation*, commemorates the revelation of Jesus Christ to all peoples, represented by the Magi. The Wise Men, popularly known as the *Three Kings*, came from the Orient to Jerusalem. They asked: *Where is the newborn King of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage.* King Herod was greatly troubled, and assembled all the chief priests and scribes to inquire where the Messiah was to be born. They answered: *In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it has been written through the prophet Micah: "And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, from you shall come a ruler, who is to shepherd my people Israel"*

Then Herod sent the Magi to Bethlehem and said: *Go and search for the child. When you have found him, bring me word, that I too may go and do him homage.* The Magi set out and were overjoyed at seeing the star, that preceded them until it stopped over the place where the child Jesus was. Upon entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed for their country by another way.

The coming of the Magi was prophesied by Isaiah, when he wrote: *Caravans of camels shall fill you, dromedaries from Midian and Ephah; all from Sheba shall come bearing gold and frankincense, and proclaiming the praises of the Lord* (Isaiah 60:6). They were interpreted as kings because of an Old Testament prophecy: *May the kings of Tarshis and the islands bring tribute, the kings of Arabia and Seba offer gifts. May all kings bow before him, all nations serve him* (Psalm 72:10-11). The star was announced by Balaam, when he said: *A star shall advance from Jacob, and a staff shall rise from Israel* (Numbers 24:17). Tradition holds that the Magi numbered three; their names Gaspar, Mechor, and Balthasar. Their gifts had a symbolic meaning. Gold, the royal metal, signified that Jesus was King; frankincense, symbol of prayer, that Jesus was God; myrrh, used to anoint the dead, that Jesus had to die for the salvation of all.

**PRAYER TO ST. ANTHONY**

O Holy St. Anthony, gentlest of Saints, your love for God and Charity for His creatures, made you worthy, when on earth, to possess miraculous powers. Encouraged by this thought, I implore you to obtain for me (request). O gentle and loving St. Anthony, whose heart was ever full of human sympathy, whisper my petition into the ears of the sweet Infant Jesus, who loved to be folded in your arms; and the gratitude of my heart will ever be yours. Amen.

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