

# THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITIES OF ST. MAURICE, ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST, AND IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR: FR. BINU MATHEW  
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Elementary Religious Education Coordinator:  
Patty Simon (812-689-4100)

Jr./Sr. High Religious Education Coordinator:  
Joyce Muckerheide (812-363-5929)



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## MASS SCHEDULE

**MON: 8:00 AM** at St. John  
(ADVENT ONLY - Dec. 4, 11 & 18)  
**TUE: 6:00 PM** at St. Maurice  
**WED: 8:00 AM** at St. John  
**THUR: 6:00 PM** at IC  
**FRI: 8:00 AM** at St. John  
**SAT: 8:00 AM** at St. John  
(Holy Hour One Hour Prior  
to All Masses Listed Above.)

**SATURDAY VIGIL**  
4:00 PM at St. Maurice  
5:00 PM at St. John

**SUNDAY OBLIGATION**  
7:30 AM at St. John  
9:00 AM at IC  
10:00 AM at St. Maurice

## ADORATION EVERY FRIDAY

9:00 AM-12:00 PM at St. Maurice  
12:00 PM-3:00 PM at IC  
3:00 PM-6:00 PM at St. John

## ROSARY

Mondays 10:30 AM  
at Immaculate Conception

## CONFESSION TIMES

**ST. JOHN:** Friday 3:00-4:00 PM  
Saturday 4:45 PM

**IC:** Thursday 5:10 PM-5:25 PM  
After Sunday Mass

**ST. MAURICE:** 15 minutes before  
weekend Masses

## COHORT NEWS

### CHRISTMAS MASSES

December 24	St Maurice	4:00 PM
	Immaculate Conception	4:00 PM
	St John	7:00 PM
December 25	St John	9:00 AM
	St Maurice	10:00 AM
December 31	Normal Weekend Schedule	
January 1	St John	9:00 AM

### Research Initiative

*The Archdiocese of Indianapolis* is conducting an archdiocesan-wide research initiative to help shape communication strategies. Hiron, an Indianapolis-based communications firm will be reaching out to parishioners in the coming weeks. For questions or participation information, contact [research@archindy.org](mailto:research@archindy.org)

- + **Baptism** is scheduled by appointment. Call your parish office for information about sacramental preparation.
- + The Sacrament of **Marriage** requires at least six months of preparation. Call your parish office before setting your wedding date.
- + The Sacrament of **Anointing** is available upon request. Please call your parish office to schedule a visit.

**December 17, 2023**



**The Third Sunday of Advent** is called Gaudete Sunday, the day when we light the pink candle on the Advent wreath. Rose vestments are worn to emphasize our joy that Christmas is near.

Gaudete means “rejoice.” This day reminds us of the joy that is to come, and serves, amid this season of penance, as a kind of ‘break’ when we recall the hope we have because of the coming of Our Lord Jesus.

On this Third Sunday of Advent, the responsorial psalm is not from the Book of Psalms. It is from the Blessed Mother’s Magnificat in St Luke’s Gospel:

***My soul rejoices in my God***

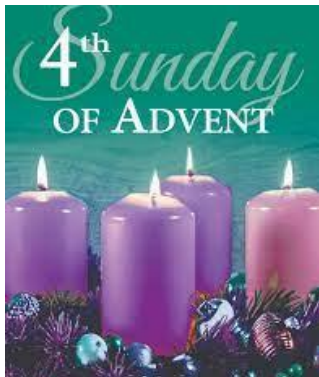
***My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked upon his lowly servant. From this day all generations will call me blessed.***

Mary, the Mother of God, calls herself “a lowly servant.” Just a few verses before this, she calls herself the “handmaid of the Lord.” Think about that for a moment. If the Blessed Virgin is a lowly servant, how much more should we be ready to serve God and others?

As we prepare for the great Solemnity of the Nativity, let us serve one another, in imitation of Our Lord and Our Lady. We can serve our families, friends and coworkers. And we can serve others who need help – maybe by babysitting for a young mother or buying gifts for a poor family.

***We can give Jesus our hearts this Advent to the Divine Infant’s Manger.***

**December 24, 2023**



**This is a very special day: both the Fourth Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve.** *Fr Joseph Mary Wolfe, MFVA*

Throughout the Old Testament, the prophets were looking toward the coming of the Messiah. They longed to see Him, to know Him. Mother Angelica once said, “Have you ever thought what it would be like without Jesus?...Did you ever think what it was before He came?”

***Tomorrow we will celebrate that Jesus has, indeed, come for you and for me.***

In today’s Gospel, we hear the account of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin. Mary knew the Scriptures. She knew about the coming Messiah. But she didn’t know that He would be her Son.

When the angel told her that she would be the mother of the Son of God, she didn’t doubt or refuse. She simply asked how it would be, since she was a virgin. Then she gave the answer that changed the very course of history. She said yes.

Like Mary, we can say yes to God every day of our lives. We can say yes to obedience and yes to generosity. We can say yes to prayer and yes to love.

When we are too tired to go to Mass, we can say yes to God and go anyway. When we want to hurt someone who hurt us, we can instead choose love. When we don’t have time to read Sacred Scripture, we can adjust our priorities and make the time.

And today, on the eve of this joyous feast, we can make the final preparations of our hearts this Advent, by giving Him our wills as together we journey to the Divine Infant’s manger.

#### **A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS**

How often our life is made up of postponements....Today, on the threshold of Christmas Mary invites us not to postpone, to say “yes”....Every “yes” costs something....but it still costs less than what that courageous “yes” cost her, that prompt “yes”, that “let it be to me according to your word,” which brought us salvation

*Angelus, Rome, December 20, 2020*

#### **Reflection Questions**

- Can you imagine how surprising Jesus was to those who were waiting for the Messiah?
- What messages from the Gospel are surprising even today?
- Where is God working in your life?
- What is your prayer this Christmas—for yourself and for others.



# Merry Christmas

**Christmas Day - December 25, 2023**



**Christ is born for us! Come, let us adore him, Alleluia!**

***“No one, whether shepherd or wise man, can approach God here below except by kneeling before the manger at Bethlehem and adoring him hidden in the weakness of a new-born child.” (CCC 563)***

“In Jesus Christ, the Son of God, God himself, God from God, became man.... God’s everlasting ‘today’ has come down into the fleeting today of the world and lifted our momentary today into God’s eternal today.

God is so great that he can become small. God is so powerful that he can make himself vulnerable and come to us as a defenseless child, so that we can love him. God is so good that he can give up his divine splendor and come down to a stable, so that we might find him, so that his goodness might touch us, give itself to us and continue to work through us.

***This is Christmas:*** ‘You are my son, this day I have begotten you.’ God has become one of us, so that we can be with him and become like him. As a sign, he chose the Child lying in the manger: this is how God is. This is how we come to know him. And on every child shines something of the splendor of that ‘today,’ of that closeness of God which we ought to love and to which we must yield” (Pope Benedict XVI).

Advent readings have traced God leading the people to salvation and a new way of living, to an outline of an individual chosen by God to lead them, to the realization that this leader will be a descendant of David. However, none of this happens as we might expect. Rather, it unfolds in such an unpretentious way that many people did not even realize it was happening. Who could blame anyone for saying: You’ve got to be kidding! But God was not kidding. Now we are ready for Christmas. †

***Bringing Home the Word, December 2023***

## **A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS**

May we not let this Christmas pass without doing something good, brothers and sisters. Since it is his celebration, his birthday, let us give him the gifts he finds pleasing! At Christmas, God is concrete: In his name, let us help a little hope to be born anew in those who feel hopeless!

## **LIVING STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION**

After Jesus, we look to Mary as an ideal steward. Her entire life was living in obedience to God’s call. Mary teaches us to live with joy for all we have been given. Just as the moon reflects the light of the sun, Mary reflects the light of Christ. Like Mary, we are called to reflect Christ’s light to the world through our gratitude and generosity.

This Christmas, be of service to those in need. Invite a lonely friend or family member over for Christmas dinner. Perhaps, also, after Christmas dinner you can assist family and friends with cleaning up.

***For all the sick in the hospital, who are celebrating Christmas away from their homes.  
We pray to the Lord.***

## **PRAYER**

Lords Jesus, so that believers everywhere may embrace the truth you came to reveal, we pray.

***Be born in us, be born in our world.***

*The Redemptorists*

**Feast of the Holy Family – Dec 31  
Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God – Jan 1**

### Masses for Christmas

December 24	St Maurice	4:00 PM
	Immaculate Conception	4:00 PM
	St John	7:00 PM
December 25	St John	9:00 AM
	St Maurice	10:00 AM
December 31	Normal Weekend Schedule	
January 1	St John	9:00 AM

### Penance Service

St John      December 20      6:00-8:00 PM

### Parish Support

December 3 Weekly	4,593.00
December 10 Weekly	2,736.00
Immaculate Conception Holyday	224.00
Retirement Fund	985.00
Christmas Flowers	195.00



**Mass Intentions Available.** Please stop in the parish office, mail, call or drop in the collection basket to have a Mass said for your loved ones. Mass stipends are \$10

Sat	Dec 16	8:00 AM	Fr Binu & All Priests
Sat	Dec 16	5:00 PM	Jeff & Gene Ogden
Sun	Dec 17	7:30 AM	Hayden Mullally
Mon	Dec 18	8:00 AM	K.K. Mathew
Wed	Dec 20	8:00 AM	Living & Deceased of Al Little Family
Fri	Dec 22	8:00 AM	Special Intention
Sat	Dec 23	8:00 AM	Fr Binu & All Priests
Sat	Dec 23	5:00 PM	Nic Meister
Sun	Dec 24	7:30 AM	Ryan Mullally
Sun	Dec 24	7:00 PM	Randy Simon
Mon	Dec 25	9:00 AM	Betty Castner
Wed	Dec 27	8:00 AM	Cassy Daoust
Fri	Dec 29	8:00 AM	Bill & Eddie Purdy
Sat	Dec 30	8:00 AM	Fr Binu & All Priests
Sat	Dec 30	5:00 PM	Emily Mathes
Sun	Dec 31	7:30 AM	Paul Miller
Mon	Jan 1	9:00 AM	Marlene Jones

### Eucharistic Adoration

Every Friday      3:00 PM to 6:00 PM

### CHURCH CLEANING SCHEDULE

Rosemary & Idona Newhart	Week of Dec 31
Ted Wissel & MJ Hunter	Week of Jan 7
Sue Gridley & Margaret Jarvis	Week of Dec 14
Mary Ann W & Susan Banta	Week of Dec 24

***Thank you all for your time and hard work!***

### MINISTRY SCHEDULE

	<u>Dec 23 5PM</u>	<u>Dec 24 7:30AM</u>
Coordinator	Sharon Voegeli	Ted Wissel
Greeter	Bob Voegeli	Steve Mathes
Lector	Jill Jansing	John Holzer
Eucharist	Jill Jansing	Jessica Gorman
Wine	Susan B/Doug W	John H/Bill M
	<u>Dec 24 7PM</u>	<u>Dec 25 9AM</u>
Coordinator	Ron Miller	Ted Wissel
Greeter	Jill Jansing	Steve Mathes
Lector	Jill Jansing	Gary Payne
Eucharist	Jessica Gorman	John Holzer
Wine	Ron E/John K	Kris T/Doug W
	<u>Dec 30 5PM</u>	<u>Dec 31 7:30AM</u>
Coordinator	Sharon Voegeli	Mary Ann W
Greeter	Bob Voegeli	Ron Miller
Lector	Jill Jansing	Jessica Gorman
Eucharist	Jill Jansing	Jessica Gorman
Wine	Susan B/John K	John H/Roger M

#### **Please Remember in Prayer:**

Mary K Chambers	Elliott Elkins	Peggy Fear
Paul Graf	Amy Graham	Lily Handt
Aaron Greiwe	Todd Holzer	Keith Jarvis
Larry Kendall	Linda McCain	Mark Meister
Teresita Noah	Tom Noah	Eileen Ogden
Pavi Pathak Family	Randy Simon	Dolores Simon
Pam Thomas	Darin Toops	Sharon Voegeli
Ben Zigan		

Denotes Active Service Deployment

### **2024 United Catholic Appeal United in the Eucharist- St John's Goal \$11,919**

Have you made your commitment to the United Catholic Appeal? If so, thank you. If you have not yet had an opportunity, please prayerfully consider a gift.

**Total pledged: \$10,075      Total donors: 24**

**Goal amount: \$11,929      Percentage of- goal: 84%**

**We would like to express our sincere gratitude to Jesse and Jennifer Tunny** for their donation of the Nativity placed in front of Mary in the sanctuary. Thank you for sharing your talent with such a beautiful gift to our parish!!

### **FOOD PANTRY MINISTRY**

Any food and household cleaning items.



#### **Tuesday, December 26:**

#### **Blessing of the Holy Innocents**

All children are invited to come to the Mass at St Maurice at 6:00 PM, following the Holy Hour at 5:00 PM. Father will bless the children, the unborn still in their mothers' wombs, and those who have miscarried or are suffering the loss of a child. There will be snacks and drinks in the hall afterward for the children.