

# † ELEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME †

June 13, 2021

*Rev. Bert S. Kozen, V.F., Pastor*

Dear Parishioners,

What is the Kingdom of God like? The first reading and Gospel for today offer us two different images. The prophet Ezekiel imagines the Kingdom to be like a majestic cedar that when fully grown offers all kinds of shelter to birds and resources to man. The Gospel offers an image that is almost the direct opposite. The mustard seed is one of the smallest of seeds and grows into a shrub that by shrub standards might be impressive, but certainly is not close to being the equal of even the smallest of trees.

What do these opposing views say to us? First, although they do differ greatly in the size of the images there is no conflict between them. The Kingdom of God is multi-faceted and includes many parts. It is big enough to take in all of creation even when it is fully enfolded and realized. It is also intimate insofar that it includes the personal relationship that God has formed with each of us.

Second, it is always important to remember that we are dealing with a mystery that we will never understand and comprehend until we are part of and one with the Kingdom. As we continue our journey of faith let us strive to demonstrate with our lives that we are not only pursuing the Kingdom of God, but that through our actions we are assisting in bringing it to completion.

May God Bless You,

*Fr. Bert*

## NEW ALTAR SERVER TRAINING

Both St. Luke and Immaculate Conception Churches are now seeking new youth altar servers. Children need to have already received First Holy Communion to be eligible. If you wish to volunteer for this important and honorable liturgical apostolate, please contact the parish office to register, 570-745-3301. The Altar Server Training for both parishes will be on Saturday, June 19, 1:00 pm at Immaculate Conception Church.

## GIRLS SUMMER BIBLE STUDY

In today's cancel culture and the rise of social media what it means to be a young Catholic lady is being completely manipulated. What our girls are seeing and hearing through society does not match up with the Church's teachings. I would like to invite all girls who are going into 9-12 grades to do a Bible study on Proverbs 31. My goal is to help them become the girls God has created them to be. First gathering will be June 16. Please call or text Paige at 570-980-4503 for more details.

## VISION 2020 COMMITTEE MEETING

The whole Church of Scranton is taking a good look at the life of our parishes and to project a future vision in response to God's call today. Some of these changes include shifting demographics, differing attitudes about formal church participation, and diminishment in numbers of ordained priests available. We are working together to fashion a "blueprint", a pathway for our local Church, tailored to each deanery and to each parish. Each parish will respond to this process in ways that are unique to its situation and circumstances. **There will be a meeting of our Vision 2020 Committee on Thursday, June 17 at 7:30pm at the Immaculate Conception Rectory.** The following parishioners are on the Committee: Jeremy Lazorka, Alex Lazorka, Tammy Lorson, Paige Rishel, Denny Haines, Michele Rozenberg, Paul Ryan, Kelly Ryan, Jeff Wenner & Dona Price.

## MEMORIAL MASS

A Memorial Mass will be held for Robert "Tom" Todd on Thursday, June 17, 11:00 am at St. Luke Church. *Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May his soul and all the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.*

## RELIGIOUS VOCATIONS

Are you being called to a life of religious service? Check out Scranton Vocations to see if God may be calling you: [www.dioceseofscranton.org](http://www.dioceseofscranton.org).

## UPCOMING EVENTS

June 17 SL/IC Vision 2020 Committee Mtg 7:30pm IC Rectory  
June 18 IC/SL Altar Server Outing Knoebels Grove  
June 19 IC/SL Altar Server Training 1:00pm IC Church  
June 27 SL/IC Vacation Bible School June 27-July 1, 6-8pm IC Parish Hall  
July 18 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Confirmation Class 12:30-1:30pm IC Church  
Aug 15 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Confirmation Class 12:30-1:30pm SL Church  
Sept 22 Fall Wine Trip

## THE LORD'S REAL PRESENCE

We are fortunate to worship in a church in which the Body of Christ is reserved. It is right to acknowledge the Lord's Real Presence with a brief act of worship on entering or leaving the church and every time passing by the sanctuary. Normally, a genuflection in the direction of the Tabernacle is enough. One who is physically unable to genuflect may substitute a profound bow at the waist.



## CONGRATULATIONS 2021 GRADUATES

Congratulation to our young parishioner High School graduates from St. John Neumann, Jersey Shore High School, South Williamsport High School and Lock Haven High School who were honored at a special "Graduates Mass" on Sunday, June 6 in St. Luke Church. Please pray for our young graduates: Ellie Androvette, Carolina Carpenetti, Hunter Engel, Rita Fisher, Colton Folmar, Riley Frazier, Patrick Hamlin, Richard Hamlin, Delaney Herbst, Madeline Herman, Reilly Kriner, Joseph Lorson, Alayna McGovern, Gabe Packer, Faith Reid, Aubrey Schilling, Emilee Stetts & Tyler Walker.

## ALTAR SERVER OUTING REMINDER

A reminder to those Altar Servers signed up for the outing to Knoebels Grove on Friday, June 18. The day will start with a coach bus picking up at St. Luke 9:00 a.m. and at Immaculate Conception at 9:20 a.m. with an arrival at Knoebels around 11:00 a.m. Lunch will be served at 11:30 a.m. before we enter the amusement park and will be provided by the church. There will be a cooler of bottled water at the pavilion that the children will have access to all day. **We will be in pavilion "H".**

The children will have all day in the park and return to the pavilion at 5:30 p.m. for something to eat also provided by the church. Departure from Knoebels will be at 6:30 p.m. with an arrival back to Immaculate Conception around 8:00 p.m. and St. Luke at 8:20 p.m.

The children 13 years of age and older will be able to go off into the park without a chaperon but they must have a partner. Children 12 years and younger will have a chaperone with them in the park. There will be a chaperone back at the pavilion at all times in case anyone needs to return to the pavilion for any reason.

## FATHER'S DAY REMEMBRANCES

Envelopes may be found in your offertory envelope pack for your Father's Day remembrances. You may place them in the collection basket or drop them off at the Parish Office. Father's Day is celebrated Sunday, June 20. All returned envelopes will be placed on the altars for Father's Day and the remainder of the month of June and the intentions for our fathers, living and deceased, will be remembered at all Masses.

## Mass Intentions

### Monday (June 14) Weekday

8:00am (SL) Charles Duran, Sr.  
*by The Duran Family*

### Tuesday (June 15) Weekday

8:00am (IC) Jim, Irene & Lenny Eck  
*by Jerry Nau*

### Wednesday (June 16) Weekday

8:00am (IC) Jean Lehman  
*by his daughter, Stephanie*

### Thursday (June 17) Weekday

7:00 pm (IC) Patrick Palmatier  
*by Tim & Paula Palmatier*

### Friday (June 18) Weekday

8:00am (SL) Corinne Hoffman Rose  
*by Francis & Pamela Hoffman*

### Saturday (June 19) Vigil: Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:00pm (IC) James Lorson  
*by Ron & Joyce Wenner*

6:00pm (SL) For the people of our parishes

### Sunday (June 20) Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30am (IC) Father's Day Envelope Intentions

10:30am (SL) Father's Day Envelope Intentions

*A link is available on our parish website to view the weekend Mass celebrated by Fr. Kozen: [icslchurch.net](http://icslchurch.net)*

## VBS 2021 IS A GO!!!

Sign Up now for Vacation Bible School 2021 – This year will be a jungle theme. VBS will start Sunday, June 27 and run through Thursday, July 1 from 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm in the Immaculate Conception Hall. Forms to sign up or volunteer can be found in the vestibule and may be returned in the collection basket. Children ages 4 to completion of 4<sup>th</sup> grade from IC or St. Luke's parishes can participate. Helpers in Grade 5 and older can sign up to volunteer. Adults or teens wanting to volunteer in any position are asked to fill out a volunteer form and contact Kimber Wenner (570)745-7124 or [ksteinba@hotmail.com](mailto:ksteinba@hotmail.com), ASAP to assist in planning. Monetary donations are always welcome to use toward snacks and may be placed in the collection clearly marked for VBS 2021. Thank you in advance to everyone who makes this possible each year!

## A LETTER FROM THE BISHOP

*Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ, We are gradually emerging from the restrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic. Recognizing many positive developments such as increasing vaccination rates, declining hospitalizations and a decreasing percentage of coronavirus cases, the Diocese of Scranton has been able to adjust our health and safety protocols. I want to take this opportunity to personally welcome you back to Mass and encourage others who are in good health to begin returning to Mass. Only by joining with the community of believers, just as the nascent Church gathered at Pentecost, and through our participation in the celebration of the Eucharist, the source and summit of our faith, are we sustained with the life-giving nourishment of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ and our spiritual life renewed. We simply cannot live without the Eucharist! As Jesus himself tells us, "Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day. For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him." (Jn 6:54-56) Brothers and sisters, God has spoken mightily to us in this past year. He has spoken to us about life and the true and lasting treasures that have been given to us through faith. I pray that we have listened carefully enough to set aside all that divides us and to go forth during these days filled with the power of the Spirit of God. Having been baptized into the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, it is our responsibility as His disciples to proclaim the truth of Jesus, to walk together as brothers and sisters, and to live His message of love, mercy, forgiveness and peace to all. While the current health situation offers many signs of hope, it is also clear that the pandemic is still a present reality. For that reason, the Bishops of Pennsylvania have jointly agreed that the obligation to attend Sunday Mass and Holy Days should remain suspended at this time in order to not put undue pressure on those who may have pre-existing conditions or health concerns. Nevertheless, for those who have resumed other activities, there is no substitute for gathering together to celebrate the Eucharist and our faith. Let us continue to pray for one another and especially for all those who have died from COVID-19 and their families and friends who grieve their loss. Come Holy Spirit! Lead us back to the Eucharist and the fullness of life that we receive through the People of God the Church of Jesus Christ! Faithfully yours in Christ, Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton*

## IC PARISH HALL

The Immaculate Conception Parish Hall is now available for rentals. Anyone interested in renting the hall, please contact Nancy Mahosky, 570-745-3780.

## UPDATED COVID-19 GUIDELINES

*May 14*

- Individuals who are fully vaccinated from COVID-19 are not required to wear masks while attending Mass or receiving Holy Communion.
- Individuals who have not been fully vaccinated must continue to wear masks while attending Mass. Individuals who are not fully vaccinated must wear a mask while receiving Holy Communion but may briefly remove the mask in order to consume the Sacred Host.
- The Sign of Peace is to be celebrated without physical contact between non-family members.
- Priests and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion are still required to wear a face mask during the Distribution of Holy Communion at this time – even if they have been fully vaccinated. Distribution of the Precious Blood remains suspended at this time.
- Pews are longer marked for physical distancing.
- With parental permission, altar servers may assist at Mass once again. They must wear masks during the Mass if not fully vaccinated.
- Holy Water fonts have been refilled and are being utilized.
- Hymnals and missalettes have been returned to the pews.
- Offertory collections and the Presentation of the Gifts have resumed. For collections, ushers would need to remain masked during any collections. **A basket will remain in the back of church for those who have not returned to mass but are stopping in for a visit.**

## NEW IC CEMETERY ROAD

As many of you have already noticed, a new road has been added in the Immaculate Conception Cemetery. This road serves two purposes: It divides the new section of the cemetery into 2 parts which simplifies the keeping of records, it also enables vehicles to exit the cemetery in an orderly manner after visits and committal services.

## CEMETERY REGULATIONS

We want to remind you that the Immaculate Conception Cemetery has regulations and guidelines that we expect all families with loved ones interred, to follow. PLEASE...before contemplating on making any changes to a grave, please consult these regulations. If you need a copy of the regulations or have any questions, contact the parish office at 570-745-3301.

## ARE YOU REGISTERED IN YOUR PARISH??

A question that needs to be raised is, are you really registered in your Parish? This can become problematic for individuals preparing for Sacraments, and also for children of parishioners entering into adulthood. If a son or daughter has moved out of the house, entered into a marriage, or has reached the age of 21 years, they need to be registered separately from their parents. Any questions contact the Parish Office at 745-3301.

## ST. LUKE

### SPAGHETTI DINNER LEFTOVERS

There is leftover meatballs & sauce for sale from the St. Luke Spaghetti Dinner. It can be found in the back kitchen freezer. Money can be placed in the container located in the freezer. We have deposited \$223 from leftover sales thus far.

### IC SPRING DINNER LEFT OVERS

There is ham leftover from the Immaculate Conception Spring Dinner. It has been put in the freezer in 1 lb bags and is located in the upstairs kitchen freezer of the parish hall. The price is 1 lb bag ham-\$4.00. If you would like to purchase some of the leftover meat, the hall will be unlocked this Saturday, May 29, 3pm-7pm and Sunday, May 30, 8am-noon. Please place the money in the cigar box. If you would like to purchase meat outside these times, please stop by the office for the hall key.

**Quo Vadis Days 2021** will be held June 20-22 at Marywood University, Scranton. This camp is for young Catholic men in High School (who were in 9-12<sup>th</sup> grade during the 2020/2021 school year) to deepen their faith, learn more about all vocations, and better discern God's call in their lives. The camp will feature dynamic talks, prayer, games, sports, activities, music and more. Participants will have the opportunity to meet Bishop Bambera, priests and seminarians of the Diocese of Scranton. Online registration is now open at [vocations.dioceseofscranton.org](http://vocations.dioceseofscranton.org). For more information, call 570-207-1452.

### SUMMER CONFIRMATION CLASSES

Two confirmation classes have been scheduled for the summer. Confirmation candidates going into 8<sup>th</sup> grade must attend at least one of these classes:

- Sunday, July 18, 12:30-1:30 p.m. IC Parish Hall
- Sunday, August 15, 12:30-1:30 p.m. SL Parish Hall

### PRO-LIFE MOVE NIGHT

All are invited to a screening of *Roe v. Wade* on Monday, June 28 at 6:30pm at the Restoration Church, 216 Allegheny Street, Jersey Shore. This award-winning new film is rated PG 13 and admission is free.

## CANDLE REQUESTS



The sanctuary candle will burn during the month of June at **St. Luke** for: *Intentions of Scott & Carol Masteller celebrating their 36<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary as requested by their family, Pat Eck & family as requested by Steve & Deb Eck, Ed Suponcic as requested by his family & Thomas M. Dincher as requested by Butch & Liz Barnhart.* **Immaculate Conception** for: *John & Larry Hoffman & Corinne Rose as requested by Pat Hoffman, deceased mbrs of the Rogers & Miller Families as requested by Edna Rogers, deceased mbrs of the Moore Family as requested by Dennis & Jan Moore, intentions of The Ryan & Jessica Vanderlin Family as requested by Eric & Cheryl Palski.*

## JS LOVE CENTER FOOD PANTRY

We continue to have boxes located in the vestibule of both our churches for donations for the Jersey Shore Love Center Food Pantry: *For the month of June the pantry is in need of Ice pops for the backpack program.* They are always in need of 15 oz. jars of peanut butter.

## SL WEEKLY SANCTUARY CLEANER

The following SL parishioner is scheduled to clean the sanctuary **June 18:** Kim Crossen.

## IC CHURCH CLEANERS

The following IC parishioners are scheduled to clean the church on **June 19:** A. Neylon & R. Williams.

## IC CHURCH GIFT BEARERS

The following Immaculate Conception parish families are scheduled to bring up the gifts in the offertory procession for the weekend of **June 20: Saturday:** Roger Mahosky Family **Sunday:** Tony Segraves Family.

## INSPIRATIONAL CATHOLIC RESOURCES

The kiosk located in the vestibule of Immaculate Conception Church has been refilled with audio CD's and books to hopefully enrich and/or inspire your Catholic faith.

## PRAYER TO ST. JOSEPH



*O St. Joseph! You were a quiet listener, a strong and loving protector of Jesus and Mary. Help me to mirror your example of openness, humility, faithfulness, and trust. Guide me in nurturing, supporting, and protecting all children. We ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen.*

## RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

We have concluded the Easter Season and the summer months of ordinary time are a good time to begin our preparations for the next Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. If anyone is interested in becoming Catholic or inquiring about the Catholic Faith or knows of someone that may be interested, please contact the parish office 570-745-3301.

### GOING ON VACATION?

If you plan to vacation this summer, please remember to learn the location of the nearest Catholic church to your destination as well as its Mass times. Go to [www.masstimes.org](http://www.masstimes.org) to find information on any parish in the world so that you may fulfill your Sunday obligation. Remember: you should never take a "vacation" from God!

### MORNING OFFERING



*O Jesus, through the Immaculate heart of Mary, I offer You my prayers, works, joys and sufferings of this day for all the intentions of Your Sacred heart, in union with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass throughout the world, in reparation for my sins, for the intentions of all our associates, and in particular, for the intention recommended this month by the Holy Father. Amen.*

### CONFESSION TIMES

Confessions are heard at the following times at St. Luke and Immaculate Conception Churches:

Thursday, Immaculate Conception 6:00-6:30pm

Saturday, Immaculate Conception 3:00-3:30pm

Saturday, St. Luke 5:15-5:40pm

### FIRST FRIDAY HOME VISITS

Home bound parishioners are reminded that they may have Holy Communion brought to them on the First Friday of each month by calling the Parish Office, 745-3301, and requesting this service. This spiritual care is offered to any parishioner who, because of illness or advanced age, cannot leave their homes and attend Mass. Home visitation may be requested for a certain period of recovery time or for a more permanent basis. The sacraments of reconciliation (confession) and anointing of the sick are offered to all home bound parishioners every Advent and Lent and upon request.

*God give me work till my life shall end  
and life till my work is done*



## SERVERS SCHEDULE

Saturday, June 19

IC	SL
4:00 p.m.	6:00 p.m.
<b>Altar Servers</b>	
Abby Corson	Matthew Harbach
Chloe Corson	Natalie Hayes
Isabella Fleegle	
<b>Cantor</b>	
Steve Waldman	Kateri Cohick
<b>Lector</b>	
JoMarie Dincher	Kim Crossen
<b>Communion Ministers</b>	
Doris Bush	Dee Todd

Sunday, June 20

IC	SL
8:30 a.m.	10:30 a.m.
<b>Altar Servers</b>	
Dj Steinbacher	Cailyn Schall
Morgan Waldman	Kylie Schall
Kaidance Meixel	
<b>Cantor</b>	
Robert Winter	Dona Price
<b>Lector</b>	
Bruce Rogers	Walt Eisenhower
<b>Communion Ministers</b>	
Dave Pistner	Sue Scanlan

### UPCOMING LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

We are working on the next schedule for August, September & October, 2021. For **St. Luke** please contact Barb Fedele - [jfedele2@comcast.net](mailto:jfedele2@comcast.net) or Judy Morlock - [jmorlock@verizon.net](mailto:jmorlock@verizon.net) for any scheduling needs of Altar Servers, Lectors and Communion Ministers. Cantors should contact Kateri Cohick, 570-398-1166. **Immaculate Conception** liturgical volunteers please contact the following: Altar Servers - Vern Nau 745-7696, Cantors - Karen Baier 745-3251, Lectors - Sue Sander [ronsander@comcast.net](mailto:ronsander@comcast.net) or 745-7687, Communion Ministers - Bob Winter 745-2255 & Altar Pappies - Denny Haines 745-7529.

### MASS INTENTION ENVELOPES

Mass intention offering envelopes are located in the vestibule of both churches for your Mass intention requests. You may request a Mass for a deceased loved one or for a special intention by simply completing the front of the envelope, inserting your donation and depositing it in the Sunday collection basket. The Mass intention will be celebrated on or near as possible the date requested in your parish church. These envelopes provide an easy and secure way to request Mass intentions. You may also continue to call or visit the Parish Office to obtain Mass cards. The customary sacrificial offering for Mass intentions is \$10.



## CATHOLIC WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

This year's Catholic Women's Conference will be held on Saturday, June 19, at Marywood University. Cost is \$40 and \$20 for virtual live streaming. Registration is available at cwcnepa.com.

## MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT

**May 2021**

<u>INCOME</u>	<u>SL</u>	<u>IC</u>
Offertory Envelopes	\$14,126.00	\$19,724.00
Loose Collection	1,106.33	560.00
Special Envelopes	527.00	963.00
Misc. Income	357.55	538.43
Non-Operating Income	50.00	0
Easter	140.00	105.00
Diocesan Collection	<u>1,015.00</u>	<u>1,543.00</u>
<b>Total Income:</b>	<b>\$17,321.88</b>	<b>\$23,433.43</b>

### EXPENSES

Administration	\$ 7,223.50	\$10,184.60
Rectory Expenses	366.97	1,241.25
Liturgy	1,718.15	2,809.63
Religious Education	50.00	50.00
Oper. & Maint. of Plant	1,345.93	5,731.61
Self Insur. Assessment	1,007.83	1,254.25
Cath. School Assessment	2,512.00	7,458.00
Non-Operating Expense	50.00	0
Diocesan Collection	<u>594.00</u>	<u>1,201.00</u>
<b>Total Expense:</b>	<b>\$14,868.38</b>	<b>\$ 29,930.34</b>

Cash Increase/decrease	\$ +2,453.50	\$ -6,496.91
Cash Beginning	<u>34,006.97</u>	<u>57,795.83</u>
Cash Ending	\$ 36,460.47	\$ 51,298.92

**This statement is ACTUAL income in and ACTUAL expense out. Cash ending is the actual balance in the general checking account.**

## CHURCH OFFERING WITH ONLINE BILL PAY

*"Convenient, safe and inexpensive"*

Online bill pay is a free online service that you, the parishioner, could set up through the bank or financial institution you already use (many of you may already be using this to pay your bills). It allows you to set up a secure recurring bill payment. The bank will issue a check and mail it to the church. You have complete control over your account and the church only receives the check in the mail. This can be a convenient, safe and inexpensive way to send in your church offering, plus you will never forget, it will already be done for you. Remember to reference your envelope number and what fund your donation should go to (ex. General Fund, Weekly donation, Monthly donation, Second Collection & Building Fund...).

## ST. LUKE FINANCIAL REPORT

The information below is St. Luke's financial running total according to the Monthly Financial Reports. Actual money in and actual money out.

July	- 4,704.46
August	+ 675.74
September	- 2,980.76
October	+ 749.69
November	- 223.12
December	- 5,171.43
January	+4,441.74
February	- 959.50
March	+ 182.58
April	+1,854.35
May	+2,453.50

**Year-to-date Total: -3,681.67**

**This information is being posted in the bulletin at the request of the St. Luke Finance Committee.**

## IMMACULATE CONCEPTION FINANCIAL REPORT

The information below is Immaculate Conception's financial running total according to the Monthly Financial Reports. Actual money in and actual money out.

July	- 1,419.85
August	+1,471.46
September	+1,025.33
October	+1,289.36
November	- 8,178.07
December	- 3,098.39
January	+4,885.41
February	+1,016.82
March	- 1,408.37
April	+6,440.70
May	-6,496.91

**Year-to-date Total: -4,472.51**

## DIOCESAN SECOND COLLECTIONS

For the summer months we will be making use of only one collection. The envelopes for any Diocesan Collection should be placed with the general collection.

## WEEKLY OFFERING

	<u>SL</u>	<u>IC</u>
Weekly	\$ 1,829.00	\$3,563.00
Loose	711.00	176.00
Monthly	670.00	1,235.00
Easter	10.00	5.00
Votive Candles	41.50	0
Utilities	<u>105.00</u>	<u>135.00</u>
<b>Total Collection:</b>	<b>\$ 3,366.50</b>	<b>\$ 5,114.00</b>
<b>INCOME GOAL:</b>	<b><u>3,100.92</u></b>	<b><u>4,574.89</u></b>
<b>Over/Under Goal</b>	<b>\$ + 265.58</b>	<b>\$ + 539.11</b>

### *Additional Collections*

Building Fund	278.00	727.00
Care & Edu Priest	0	482.00
Holy Land	0	5.00
Catholic Communication	20.00	0
Home Mission	5.00	0
Diocesan Appeal	160.00	40.00
Peter's Pence	510.00	10.00

*May the Lord reward your generosity*