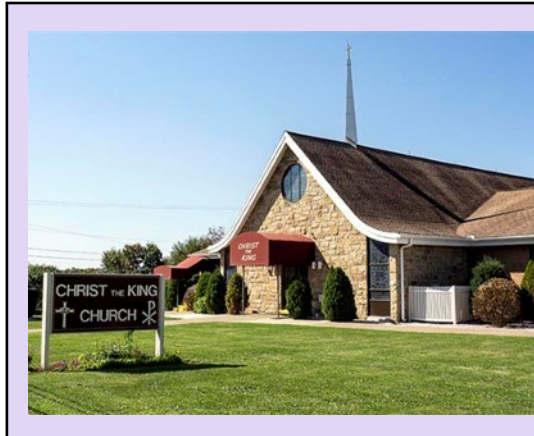




DECEMBER 22, 2024

© Diocesan / The Athenaeum - Nativity (1730) - Noel-Nicolas Coypell III

Christ the King Parish



Christ the King Church

123 Good Street · Houtzdale, PA 16651

Immaculate Conception Mission Church

408 Stone Street · Osceola Mills, PA 16666

Clergy

Rev. Johnathan Schmolt, Pastor
Deacon Eugene J. Miller, Deacon Assistant
Rev. Joseph Staszewski, Retired

Office Hours at Christ the King

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday..... 9am until 3pm

Phone 814-378-7653

Email..... office@ctk-ic.org

Website www.ctk-ic.org

Marriages

Contact the office at least 6 months prior to anticipated date.

Baptisms

Call rectory for appointment.

Mass Schedule

Sunday: 8:30am (IC), 10am (CTK)

Saturday: Mass 4pm; Confession 3-3:30pm (CTK)

Weekdays: Monday 8:30am (IC); Tuesday-Friday 8:30am (CTK)

...blessed is the fruit of your womb.
Lk 1:42

LOVE



Bulletin Announcements

Please submit all bulletin announcements in writing to office@ctk-ic.org at least two weeks prior to the anticipated date.



Christ the King Parish

Office: 123 Good St. Houtzdale, PA 16651
814-378-7653 · ctk-ic.org · office@ctk-ic.org

Dear Parishioners,

In just a few days we will celebrate the Solemnity of the Nativity better known as Christmas. On this day we commemorate the birth of Jesus, the incarnation, God has come to us. I hope everyone has a wonderful celebration with your family and friends.

As we look at the creche and Jesus lying in a manger we are reminded of just how ordinary His birth was. Just a baby, Jesus had his full human life ahead of him while having been the Word for all of eternity. Mary, like many of us, is challenged for being away from home while giving birth yet that moment becomes the greatest gift for all of human history and the reason why any visions of the Blessed Mother that have occurred are so treasured today. Joseph, like many people, has an experience of an unexpected pregnancy and caring for a new mother and wife, and yet he fully accepts and fulfills his contribution to salvation history. The scene of the creche, an ordinary event with eternal ramifications. Please take a moment this Christmas season to contemplate this marvel of history and eternity.

Changing gears, these last few months at Christ the King Parish have been quite eventful. The sale of the Immaculate Conception Madera church property has been completed to the Houtzdale Municipal Authority. The Marian shrine that is on the property will be moved to the Immaculate Conception Madera Cemetery by July. This is one project that I believe will come to an amenable conclusion.

The one hundredth anniversary of the building of Immaculate Conception Church in Osceola Mills was commemorated on December 9, 2024 with the celebration of the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. The mass and subsequent banquet were very lovely. The Altar Rosary society, through Connie the president, created a wonderful display of the history of the Immaculate Conception, Osceola Mills parish. Thank you for everyone's participation and work to make the evening a special event.

The evangelization committee, led by Deacon Gene, has been working on bringing more faith experiences to the people of our parish. On December 7 the committee hosted the St. Nicholas party for our children. This event brought to the children an experience of Christian cheer along with the story of the generous bishop St. Nicholas.

In 2025 the committee is planning on a Lenten presentation on reading icons. We are scheduling Fr. Larry Richards to come during the late summer to give an evening talk. Next September we are planning on holding a parish retreat guided by a national speaker.



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We are still working on ways to reach out to the boroder community to introduce people to our Catholic faith. We currently have two adults preparing to join the Catholic Church and we are continually open for any references for people who want to learn more about our faith.

Religious Education, led by Cassandra Kitko, has been going well for the first half of the school year. We have fifty four children from first through ninth grade learning each week about their faith. I appreciate our catechists and the time they devote to being witnesses of the faith for the children. We continue to need more people involved in working with our children. The need today is mentors for our teens and people praying for their well being. After worshiping God in mass, the next most important action as a Roman Catholic Church is to teach our faith to the next generation. The more help we can have in this area the more fruitful our witness will be.

Our Knights of Columbus council here at Christ the King have been busy hosting their various fundraising events. On December 31, New Years Eve they will hold their Elimino event. Monthly they host bingo at Christ the King. These and other fundraising events become the financial support that they are able to provide to various community organizations and our parish. I am grateful for all the charity work they do for the parish and community.

The Knight of Columbus council at Osceola Mills have continued to provide material support for the Immaculate Conception Church building and events. I am grateful for their help.

The Altar Rosary Society is one organization for the entire parish. Beyond their help they provided for the Immaculate Conception 100th Anniversary banquet, they are quietly working in the background at almost every event with a meal or snacks to share. They provided crafts for the children for St. Nicholas day. During the winter they host a monthly community luncheon in the Immaculate Conception social hall. It is a free meal for anyone in the community. The Altar Rosary provides refreshments for events like First Communion or to honor a feast day. Thank you Altar Rosary for everything you do to help out at our parish.

Our fundraising committee puts in multiple hours of work to raise funds for our parish. In particular they strive to bring in enough funds to cover the cost of operating the Parish Center. Whether it is the Patriot Day festival, the Paddle Party, Turkey Bingo, 21 Club, or other events they are a dedicated group of volunteers that helps relieve some



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of the financial burden for our parish. I thank them for all their hard work along with the many people that participated in running the events.

There are numerous other parishioners who on their own initiative give their time to help make our parish function well. Whether they help with money counting, setting up for mass as a sacristan, assisting as an Altar Server, being an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, proclaiming the word as a Lector, caring for the church grounds, serving on one of our councils and committees, or any other way, thank you for your service.

In the end we do all this volunteer work because we want to give praise and glory to God almighty. We exist, our mission, our purpose is to worship and honor our Lord Jesus Christ in the Roman Catholic Tradition. We rely on the Holy Spirit to guide our actions in order to follow the will of God, our Father. While the practical necessities of buildings, finances, and even the compassionate work of charity can occupy our attention, as a parish we need to bring our focus back on our core purpose for existing - Jesus Christ who is honored and adored in our personal and communal prayer and received in his glorious gift of the Eucharist. That little baby born years ago is the reason we do what we do.

As we enter into the jubilee of 2025 with the theme “Pilgrims of Hope” may we eagerly respond to the call of the Holy Spirit.

For myself, I hear the need for practical hands-on help to bring the faith to our community. I hear the call to be more engaged in communicating with the community. This means needing professional help in marketing to promote our faith. I hear the call for me to be more devoted to teaching the faith. This means having a facilities manager to oversee the maintenance around our campuses to free up my time. I hear the call of the Holy Spirit to have some full time people on staff - lay or religious - to help me reach the adults in our area with the faith. All of these items need the people and finances to make them happen. If I am hearing the call of the Holy Spirit correctly, then I trust that the Holy Spirit will provide the means to carry His message to Houtzdale, Osceola Mills, and beyond.



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Thank you for your presence, especially at mass. Thank you for your ongoing support for me personally and in my ministry. It is a joy to be your pastor. It is a joy to help us all become more closely united with the call of the Holy Spirit to be in union with God.

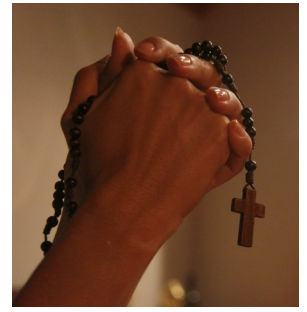
Peace in Christ the New Born King,

Rev. Johnathan Schmolt

Pastor

Prayer Chain

Christ the King Parish would like to use the power of prayer to help all those in need. If you or a loved one is in need of prayer, please contact the rectory. Names will remain on the list for three months, at which time they will be removed to allow space for more names. If someone is still in need of prayer, call to renew that name. Please pray for: *Sherri (Murawski) Gehringer, David Collins, John Mahute, Carmen Yarger, Judi Lesko, Lucy Weis, Mick Patkalitsky, Luke Francisco, Sherri Thompson, Cecilia Demchak, Better Health of Anonymous, Jared Gmerek, Michael Burns, John Russell, Joann Bezilla, Chris Switala, Stephen Sypa, Clara Tubo, Tim Stine, Michael Moskel, Joan Manos, Cory Shawver, Ed Holden, Jr., Judy Reese, Dave Stodart, Bill Moyer*



Parenting Pointers

Christmas gifts may be opened and enjoyed, but there's probably a lot of cleaning up to do. To be fully part of the family, include your children in the cleaning up too.

Homebound?

If you or a loved one are homebound, but wish to receive Communion and keep up with church news by receiving a mailed bulletin please call the rectory during business hours. Father Johnathan will add you to his Communion Call list.

Decorating for Christmas

Monday, December 23 • 3:30pm

Christmas decorations will be going up on Monday, December 23 at 3:30pm. All are welcome to join the fun!

Weekly Schedule

Sunday, December 22 • Fourth Sunday of Advent

NO Religious Ed. Class

2pm • Advent Penance Service (St. Francis, Clearfield)

Monday, December 23—January 1

Rectory Closed

Tuesday, December 24 • Holy Day of Obligation

4pm • Christmas Vigil Mass (CTK)

8pm • Christmas Vigil Mass (CTK)

Wednesday, December 25 • Holy Day of Obligation

8:30am • Christmas Mass (IC)

Mass Intentions

Monday, December 23

8:30am • Joseph G. Ropchok, Sr. by Pat & Bernie Ropchok (IC)

Tuesday, December 24

4pm • Eddie & Joanne George by Children & Grandchildren (CTK)

8pm • People of the Parish by Pastor (CTK)

Wednesday, December 25 • Holy Day of Obligation

8:30am • Rose Casher by Family (CTK)

Thursday, December 26

8:30am • Eugene R. & Eugene B. Kawa by sister & aunt Elaine (CTK)

Friday, December 27

8:30am • Roger Witherow by Robbie Ball (CTK)

Saturday, December 28

4pm • People of the Parish by Pastor (CTK)

Sunday, December 29

8:30am • Michael Sullivan by Joe & Mary Ann Hockman (IC)

10am • James Cervenak by Rosemary, Lori, Jim, Kathy, Cheryl, & Families (CTK)

Sanctuary Lamp

The Sanctuary Lamp at Christ the King Church burns this week in memory of Helen E. Archer requested by Grandchildren.

A Family Perspective

Mary was excited about her first pregnancy and rushed to share the news with her cousin. Sadly, children are often seen as a liability, "another mouth to feed," or an "obstacle to my career." While it is said that "Christmas is for children," it is more accurate to say, "Christmas is for adults to appreciate the gift of children!"



Jubilee Journey: Pilgrims of Hope

Celebrating Together for Holy Year 2025

Diocese of Erie
December 2024



YEAR OF JUBILEE



Pope Francis opens the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica to inaugurate the Jubilee Year of Mercy at the Vatican in this file photo from Dec. 8, 2015. CNS photo/Vatican Media

Welcome to the *Jubilee Journey: Pilgrims of Hope* monthly newsletter. Join us each month for ways to stay connected and to celebrate this Holy Year.

CALLED TO CONNECT

As we prepare for this upcoming Holy Year, I want to share with you some reflections on the significance of this Jubilee Year: "Pilgrims of Hope". The Holy Father has called us to **"fan the flame of hope that has been given us"** and to help others "gain new strength and certainty by looking to the future with an open spirit, a trusting heart and far-sighted vision."

This theme underscores the commitment we have made in our own diocese to look forward after facing the challenge of pastoral planning to embrace our future with trust and faith. **As we unite during this sacred time, may our hearts be opened to the graces and blessings of this extraordinary celebration.** Whether you are making a pilgrimage to Rome or encountering the Lord in your local community, let us honor this Holy Year with a renewed sense of mission and hope.

||

The spirit of the Lord is upon me;
therefore he has anointed me.
He has sent me to bring glad tidings to the poor,
To proclaim liberty to captives,
Recovery of sight to the blind and release of prisoners,
To announce a year of favor from the Lord."

~~~~~ *According to the Scriptures* Luke 4:18-19

*Lawrence T. Persico*

The Most Reverend  
Lawrence T. Persico



## JUBILEE PRAYER

Father in heaven, may the *faith* you have given us in your Son, Jesus Christ, our brother, and the flame of *charity* enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us the blessed *hope* for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel. May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth, when, with the powers of Evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, *Pilgrims of Hope*, a yearning for the treasures of heaven. May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth. To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise for ever. Amen.

## CELEBRATIONS

It's a time for spiritual renewal. Explore Jubilee Mass celebrations, events and faithful ways to connect. Key dates:

- **12.24.24** - Opening of the Holy Door of Saint Peter's Basilica of Rome
- **12.29.24** - Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph: Diocese of Erie Opening of the Holy Year
- **10.15.25** - [Diocese of Erie Pilgrimage to Italy](#)

The Year of Jubilee has a special logo or picture (see front) that represents something. The Jubilee logo has distinct colors and meaning: **Red** symbolizes love, passion and self-sacrifice, Christ's sacrifice and his boundless love for humanity; **Orange** expresses joy, vitality, and enthusiasm, the light that illuminates the path of faith; **Green** is universally recognized as the color of hope, growth, and rebirth, and; **Blue** symbolizes faith, peace, and tranquility, evoking the sky and spirituality, and inviting contemplation and prayer.

If you could draw a logo that would symbolize what your family represents, what would it look like? Grab your crayons or markers and get creative!

SAINT OF THE MONTH



**St. Jude** is the patron saint of hope and impossible causes. As one of Jesus' original twelve Apostles, he preached the Gospel with great passion, often in the most difficult circumstances.

## FAITHFUL FACTS!

In 1300, Pope Boniface VIII called the first jubilee, also known as a "Holy Year," since it is a time in which God's holiness transforms us.

## LIVING THE MISSION

In announcing the 2025 Holy Year, Pope Francis said, "We must fan the flame of hope that has been given to us." (Letter on the Jubilee Year of Hope, February 11, 2022). **In what ways can you take this opportunity to celebrate your faith and the faith of others?**

## HEY, KIDS OF CHRIST!





## K of C Winter BBQ

**Sunday, February 23 • 11am until 1pm**

Knights of Columbus Our Lady of the Valley #10376 will hold their Winter BBQ on Sunday, February 23 from 11am until 1pm at Christ the King Parish Center. Rib dinners cost \$15, chicken dinners cost \$12 and include scalloped potatoes, baked beans, apple sauce, and roll. Tickets are advanced sale only, are available now, and can be purchased from any K of C member.

## K of C Elimino

**Tuesday, December 31**

Knights of Columbus #10376 will host their Elimino Extravaganza at Christ the King Parish Center on December 31. Tickets are available for purchase by calling Jim Hawkins 814-672-5618 or Rob Yebernetsky 814-553-7413.

## Christmas Season Mass Schedule

**Tuesday, December 24**

**4pm** • Christmas Vigil Mass (CTK)

**8pm** • Christmas Vigil Mass (CTK)

**Wednesday, December 25 • Holy Day of Obligation**

**8:30am** • Christmas Day Mass (IC)

**Saturday, December 28**

**4pm** • Mass for the Holy Family (CTK)

*Confession 3-3:30pm (CTK)*

**Sunday, December 29**

**8:30am** • Mass for the Holy Family (IC)

**10am** • Mass for the Holy Family (CTK)

**Tuesday, December 31**

**4pm** • Mary, Mother of God Vigil Mass (CTK)

**Wednesday, January 1 • Holy Day of Obligation**

**8:30am** • Mary, Mother of God Mass (IC)

**Saturday, January 4**

**4pm** • Epiphany Mass (CTK)

*Confession 3-3:30pm (CTK)*

**Sunday, January 5**

**8:30am** • Epiphany Mass (IC)

**10am** • Epiphany Mass (CTK)

## Stewardship

Your generous gifts of time, talent, and treasure.

### Sunday & Holy Days

| Actual<br>12/08/2024                                      | Actual<br>Total Fiscal YTD | Budgeted<br>Fiscal YTD             | Percentage<br>Over (Under) |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| \$6,794                                                   | \$117,375                  | \$121,325                          | (3.3%)                     |
| Count of envelopes: 263                                   |                            | Weekly Budgeted Offertory: \$5,275 |                            |
| Catholic Services Appeal 2024                             |                            |                                    |                            |
| Actual<br>12/08/2024                                      | Actual<br>Total to Date    | Parish Goal                        | Percentage<br>Over (Under) |
| \$535                                                     | \$58,834                   | \$72,000                           | (18.3%)                    |
| Total Pledges: 160                                        |                            | Total Pledged: \$59,818.90         |                            |
| <b>Religious Retirement: \$1,312.15</b>                   |                            |                                    |                            |
| <b>Please make all checks payable to Christ the King.</b> |                            |                                    |                            |

## Upcoming Events

**Sunday, December 29**

**9:30am** • Coffee, Donuts, 50/50 (IC)

**NO** Religious Ed. Class

**Tuesday, December 31 • Holy Day of Obligation**

**4pm** • Solemnity of Mary Vigil Mass (CTK)

**Wednesday, January 1 • Holy Day of Obligation**

**8:30am** • Solemnity of Mary Mass (IC)

**Thursday, January 2**

**2pm** • Altar Rosary Society Meeting (IC)

**Friday, January 3**

**6:30pm** • Confession, Exposition (CTK; until 7:30pm)

**Sunday, January 5**

**11am** • Religious Ed. Class (CTK)



## Online Giving

You can now donate to the Weekly Offertory, the 2024 Catholic Service Appeal, and special collections online. When setting up for online giving, you can either make a one-time donation or setup recurring payments. Giving online is fast, easy, and secure. Simply go to our parish website at <http://ctk-ic.org> and click the link in the top right corner that says "DONATE NOW" or scan the QR code with your mobile device.

254 Lynn Street  
Madera, PA 16661

Joseph R. Spewock, Supervisor

[www.kruise-spewock.com](http://www.kruise-spewock.com)**KRUISE-SPEWOCK**-2550 Union Street  
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Maureen Ann Albrethsen, Supervisor

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