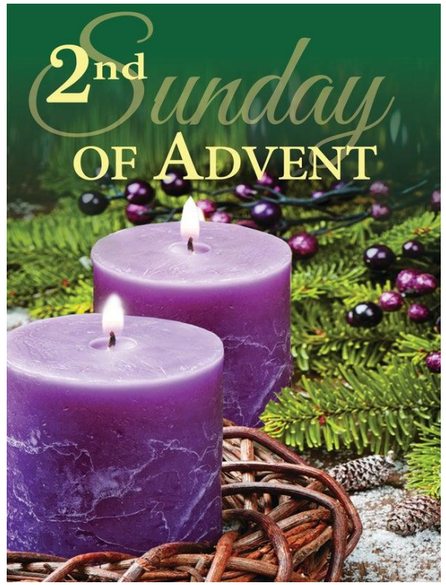
2nd Sunday of Advent
December 7, 2025



Feast of the Immaculate Conception

Monday, December 8th
4:00 pm St. Isaac Jogues
5:30 pm Blessed Sacrament

Sacrament of the Sick

Wednesday, December 17th, 4:00 pm St. Isaac Jogues

Christmas Eve, December 24th

4:00 pm St. Isaac Jogues
6:00 pm Blessed Sacrament

Christmas Day, December 25th

11:00 am St. Isaac Jogues

Mother of God, December 31st

4:00 pm St. Isaac Jogues
5:30 pm Blessed Sacrament

Reconciliation Available

3:30 pm Saturday's St. Isaac Jogues
11:30 am Sunday's Blessed Sacrament

Weekend	Bl. Sac.	St. Isaac
Nov 23, 2025	$1,582	$1,789
Nov 30, 2025		$1,028
Online October		$2,120

When School is delayed or cancelled, weekday morning Mass, the Rosary & Holy Hour are also CANCELLED!

Blessed Sacrament

Intentions & Mass Cards: Please call Rita Whitney at 518-338-6858
12/7 Frank O'Connor *Req. Debbie Sands*
12/7 Michael Schuster, Sr.,
Req. The Schuster Family
12/8 Feast of the Immaculate Conception
No Mass Intention
12/14 Virginia & Carl Horn *Req. Dawn Faller*
12/14 All Souls *Req. The Schuster Family*
Prayer Intentions: call Pat Nugent 518-668-2765
Rosary: Tuesdays at 9:00 am.
No Daily Mass: on Thursday, 12/11 at 9:30 am.

St. Isaac Jogues

Intentions & Mass Cards: Please call the office 518-824-1176.
12/6 & 12/7 For all who have died in our church.
12/13 All Souls *Req. Friends of the Suffering Souls*
No Daily Mass on Wednesday, 12/10 at 9:30 am in the parish Center.
The Helpers Fund: is having their Annual Holiday Drive for 2025. Please consider helping them to make a difference to those less fortunate during the Holiday Season. For more information www.Helpersfund.org PO Box 691, 6318 B Main St. Chestertown. 518-494-5565.

Cluster Information

Christmas Giving Tree: Please return your unwrapped gift, with the tag attached, by next Sunday, December 14th. If you would like to provide the wrapping paper, that would be wonderful. Your generosity will help make someone's Christmas morning brighter.
"You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God." *— 2 Corinthians 9:11*

Christmas Flowers Donation

This Christmas, consider making a monetary donation in remembrance of a loved one. Donations will be used to purchase Christmas poinsettias for the Church. Share the joy of the season with others while you remember your dearly departed. The deadline for donations is Sunday, December 14th. The sooner the better!

What Makes a Church Vibrant

Spiritual Growth Opportunities: Bible studies, retreats, mentorship programs, and diverse worship experiences nurture deeper faith and discipleship.
Community Engagement: A vibrant church extends beyond its walls—serving the poor, supporting families, and being visible in the wider community through acts of compassion.
More to come.

Diocesan Appeal

The timing of this appeal allows us to reach out to our families for their support in this important diocesan effort.

The Diocesan Appeal supports many vital ministries, including the education and formation of clergy, deacons, and seminarians, as well as chaplaincy programs in hospitals and colleges, and other essential Diocesan Services that help our parishes thrive.

Opening the appeal early allows you to spread your gift over a longer period of time.

Parish Goals & Progress:

St. Isaac Jogues—Assessment: $15,429 (an increase of $88 from last year). Raised to date: *$14,656 with 34 gifts (95% of goal)* Wow only $1,383 left to achieve our goal.

Blessed Sacrament—Assessment: $18,895 (a decrease of $2,147 from last year). Raised to date *$6,345 with 19 gifts (34% of goal)* Getting there!

Each parish's goal is based on a three-year average of offertory giving.

"With the light and strength of the Holy Spirit, let us build a Church founded on God's love that proclaims the Word and becomes a leaven of harmony for humanity." *--Pope Leo*

Prayer for the Second Sunday of Advent
Dear Lord,
Open our eyes to the people You have specifically placed in our path so that we can speak healing and comfort to them. Help us to prepare for the coming of Your kingdom, together. Amen. ©LPi

Practicing Catholic

Mini reflection: It is so, so beautiful to be culturally Catholic. But actions, rituals, traditions, sentiments, nostalgia — none of it matters unless it bears the fruit of a transformed heart.

Culturally Catholic

Catholic culture is so thick, you could spread it on a scone. Or a baguette. Or a slice of ciabatta bread. Or naan (Wait, do you put butter on naan? I would, because I'm Midwestern, but I sense that this is, perhaps, incorrect).

Okay, maybe my comparison is imperfect, but what I'm saying is this: Catholic culture is delicious, it's versatile, and it's nourishing. It's the same everywhere, even though it also looks and feels totally unique in every place. The Day of the Dead in Mexico, Simbang Gabi in the Philippines, St. Patrick's Day in Ireland, Meskel in Ethiopia, Semana Santa processions in Spain: these are all touchstones of Catholic culture.

It is so, so beautiful to be culturally Catholic. But today, when I hear John the Baptist's words to the Pharisees and the Sadducees, I am reminded that Catholicism is so much more than just cultural expression.

The Pharisees and Sadducees were loyal sons of Abraham and scrupulous observers of the law of Moses. Their culture, you could say, was strong. But John the Baptist is telling them — and he's telling us — that culture isn't enough.

Actions, rituals, traditions, sentiments, nostalgia — none of it matters unless it bears the fruit of a transformed heart.

It's something to remember especially as we approach Christmas, a time when culture and cultural rituals become so (beautifully) prominent. In the cultural practice of Christmas, we are like the Wise Men approaching the manger, bearing our gifts. But how terrible would it have been if the wise men had hurried away, their culture expressed, their ritual complete, and gone back to the world unchanged by the gaze of the Infant?

So be culturally Catholic. Bring these gifts to the Christ Child — but linger there. Reflect. And then when you return to the world, you will bring Catholic culture with you.
By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman ©*LPi*