

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH OF THE  
**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**

*"O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to you."*

26 JOHN STREET ✦ STONY POINT, NEW YORK 10980 ✦ WWW.IMMACULATESP.ORG

**SERVED BY**

Rev. Herbert T. DeGaris-----*Pastor*  
Deacon Philip Marino  
Deacon John Sadowski  
Rev. Msgr. William J. Foley-----*Pastor Emeritus*

**THE SACRAMENT OF THE EUCHARIST**  
Sunday | Main Church in Stony Point

Saturday Evening Anticipated Mass----- 5:30 PM  
Sunday Morning----- 9:30 and 11:30 AM

Sunday | Church in Tomkins Cove

Sunday Morning----- 7:30 AM

**Weekday**

Monday thru Friday----- 7:30 AM  
Saturday----- 8:30 AM

**Holy Days of Obligation:** 5:30PM - Vigil 7:30AM and 12 Noon  
St. Gregory Barbarigo at 7:30 PM

**DEVOTIONS**

**Rosary:** Recited daily after the 7:30 AM Mass

**Novena:** Monday after the 7:30 AM Mass the Miraculous Medal Novena is prayed.

**RECTORY OFFICE**

786-2742 | 942-2614 fax  
r547@archny.org

Margie Celenza  
*Parish Secretary*

**Monday thru Friday:**

9:00 AM to 12:00 PM;  
1:00 PM to 5:00 PM

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE**

Ughetta Jilleba, *Coordinator*  
Immaculate.prep@yahoo.com

24 East Main Street  
Stony Point, NY 10980  
786-5298

**Tuesday:** 9:00 AM - 8:30 PM

**Thursday:** 9:00 AM - 6:30 PM

**THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:** Confessions are heard on Saturday afternoon from 4:00 to 5:00 PM and anytime upon reasonable request.

**THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM:** First & Third Sundays at 1:00 PM. Expectant parents may contact the Rectory Office to schedule one of the available Sundays. Adults are baptized and confirmed at the Easter Vigil after completing the stages of the Rite of Christian Initiation.

**RCIA – Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults:** A process for those who wish to enter the Catholic Faith, or for present Catholic individuals who after being baptized may need to receive the sacraments of Holy Eucharist and Confirmation. For more information, please call the Rectory Office.

**THE SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY:** Since Catholic marriage requires a time of preparation, arrangements should begin at least six months before the proposed date of the wedding to allow for the Marriage Preparation Program and Natural Family Planning (NFP). It is required that either the bride or groom must be a registered and practicing member of Immaculate Conception Church.

**PASTORAL CARE OF THE SICK:** If you are planning to enter the hospital for surgery, experiencing a prolonged or serious illness, or are very weak due to advancement of age, please call the Parish Rectory to arrange for the sacraments of reconciliation, communion and anointing at home. Communal anointing of the sick is celebrated at mass during the Advent and Lenten seasons. Please notify us of any hospitalization so that we may be of assistance.

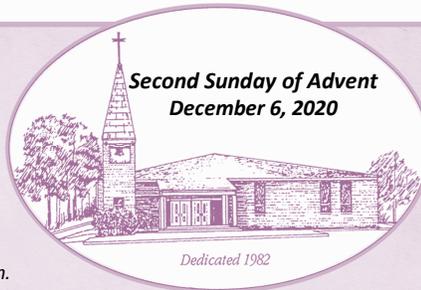
**WELCOME TO NEW PARISHIONERS:** The Immaculate Conception community warmly welcomes you! Please introduce yourself to the celebrant of the mass you are attending as you leave the church so that, on behalf of the entire community you may be welcomed. You can register at the Parish Office and receive any information needed from the office receptionist. Kindly notify us of any change of address.

*"For this time of Advent is a time of waiting for the Lord, who will visit us all on the feast, but also, each one, in our own hearts. The Lord is coming! Let us wait for him!"*

— Pope Francis



**MISSION STATEMENT:** Immaculate Conception Parish is a Christian community of disciples in the Roman Catholic tradition, called by Jesus, united in Eucharistic worship and growing in faith, hope and love. Nourished through the sacraments and strengthened by God's transforming love, we are empowered to know the gospel message and to witness to others. As Christian stewards, we are thankful for God's many gifts and we commit ourselves to share our time, talent and treasure in Christ-like service within our parish community and beyond. We seek God's blessing and guidance to be faithful to this mission.



*Second Sunday*  
of ADVENT

*Love*

Dear Parishioners,

Today I present the “State of the Parish Address”. None of us will argue that 2020 has been a year of great challenge with the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. For some families, great sadness was added this year with the loss of a loved one. Our parish community missed out on celebrating the joy of the Easter Season and now, as we see cases of COVID-19 spike again, many of us must be wondering about the upcoming Christmas Season.

Throughout these past nine months we as a family of faith have remained resilient. Parish life and the celebration of our faith had continued through our daily and Sunday masses being live streamed and begin today with live streaming our 9:30 am mass. We came back to public worship, slowly at first but with each passing week, more parishioners feeling comfortable to return to the physical church building.

Our Annual Sacramental Report submitted last month to the Archdiocese although less in numbers and activities, still strong enough to show that our faith-filled parish life is indeed active. Over 160 children attend our Religious Education program, most of them being taught at home or by way of video classes. Our Spring celebration of sacraments had to be moved to the Fall this year. First Holy Communion was celebrated by 33 of our third-grade children. I had the honor in this pandemic year to confirm 24 of our high school teenagers. The organ played “Here comes the bride” 8 times. Sadly, the church bell tolled 49 times as we mourned the passing of loved ones, whom God called to Himself.

The ministry that has seen a strong increase has been our Food Pantry. Where last year I reported that on average, 70 families would seek assistance from our generosity. This year, since March, we are assisting 100-110 families weekly. Last year 101 families received a full Thanksgiving Dinner. This year that rose to 151 families. Continually, your generosity has shown the powerful Corporal Work of Mercy, to feed the hungry. That awareness was shared throughout the Archdiocese in an article about our Parish Food Pantry in a recent *Catholic New York*. We started up the Christmas Giving Tree last weekend. Sadly, the celebration of our monthly family Mass and Sunday Breakfast has paused. We look forward to returning this monthly celebration, please God soon, to Immaculate.

We are continuing to receive payments to pledges for our *Renew + Rebuild* Campaign. We have beautified the sanctuary of the church with a solid oak floor, our pews are in the process of being cleaned and restored, and in the new year we anticipate the floor of the church to be beautified as well. We have had some delay in this work due to the pandemic, but once again we seem to be back on schedule. After this winter, work will begin on replacing the concrete entrance way and the handicapped entrance to the main church building.

As I continually tell you time to time, I am in awe of your generosity and goodness. You are always there to help others in need. One of the hallmarks of the people of God is found in their willingness to care for one another. This is truly a sign of unity, love and faith for your parish.

When Cardinal Dolan appointed me as Pastor, he reminded me of the serious obligation that every pastor must be the best steward of the financial resources of the parish. Following this letter, you will find the 2020 Financial Report. Let us continue this good work so that the Gospel of Christ may continue to flourish at Immaculate.

May we continue to have a blessed Advent as we prepare for the coming of Christ,

Rev. Herbert T. DeGaris  
Pastor

**Immaculate Conception  
Statement of Activities  
Comparison**

	<b>Actual 8/31/2020 Current Peiod</b>	<b>Actual 8/31/2019 Current Peiod</b>
<b><u>Revenue</u></b>		
Regular Sunday Collection	\$ 381,499	\$ 405,485
Holy Days (Christmas,Easter,Etc.)	70,783	80,525
Religious Education	38,545	44,331
Fundraising	35,146	33,681
Special Collections (Votive, Candle, Books, Etc.)	12,647	5,964
Rental Income	6,250	6,250
Restricted Contribution	107,341	168,475
Maintenance/HVAC Collections	4,034	6,384
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b><u>\$ 656,245</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 751,095</u></b>
<b><u>Expenses</u></b>		
Salaries and Benefits	\$ 228,097	\$ 279,583
Office Expenses	64,415	61,516
Church/Chapel Expense	19,159	23,345
Religious Education	5,799	9,342
Utilities and Sewer	31,075	36,732
Maintenance	68,501	66,093
Insurance & Tax	36,454	33,528
House Living Expenses	20,923	25,827
Cathedraticum and School Tax	41,858	43,960
Fund Raising	8,985	7,606
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b><u>\$ 525,265</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 587,533</u></b>
<b>Net Surplus</b>	<b><u>\$ 130,980</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 163,562</u></b>

SCHOOL OF RELIGION “My Time with Jesus” – Our Faith in Action

**Moral Conscience: Catholic Teaching for Strong Faith**

**Basic Catholic Morality**

**Did you know...** Catholic morality is about the life we are to lead. Morality is a call to recognize our dignity as men and women who have received a free gift of new life in Christ and we must live accordingly. “Christian, recognize your dignity and, now that you share in God’s own nature, do not return to your former base condition by sinning. Remember who is your head and of whose body you are a member. Never forget that you have been rescued from the power of darkness and brought into the light of the Kingdom of God (CCC1691).

**The Law of Love** as taught by Jesus as the first principles of Catholic morality: “*You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it, You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the law and the prophets.*” (Matthew 22:37-40). Love/charity is the great commandment of the Lord – love of God and love of neighbor (wanting the best for others) are the source and a summary of Catholic morality. This means that *what love requires* is the essence of all moral rules. We are to completely give ourselves for others as Christ did for us.

To love without limit is very demanding. So, how do we live up to this demand? It is not you who will save yourself, it is God who saves you. “With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible” (Matthew 19:26). If you are open to God, God will give you the strength and ability to do more than you can believe is possible. And the more you give, the more help God will give you. What is this called – this is grace. It is the Holy Spirit who gives us the gift of grace. He not only calls us to holiness, but He makes us holy (sanctifies us) and gives us the grace we need.

Once you begin to accept grace, you’ll find that it changes you – for the good. There are the seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit and the 12 Fruits of the Spirit. It is the Holy Spirit who gradually moves us toward the ultimate goal of virtue: to love and act with the heart of Christ Himself. This is described by The Beatitudes, which begin the beautiful “Sermon on the Mount” in Matthew’s Gospel (chapters 5-7). “The Beatitudes are at the heart of Jesus’ preaching” (CCC1716). They are a portrait of Jesus. If you strive to live in Christ, you will strive to make the Beatitudes yours.

It is erroneous for a Catholic not to understand the basic concepts in Catholic moral theology which today is not accepted by our culture/secular (Godless) world. The basic concepts in Catholic moral theology are: **Freedom, Truth, Natural Law, Law, and Conscience**. God created us in the state of freedom – to choose, based on reason and will, whether to act or not in a specific situation. We are responsible for our choices. With these choices, we choose our own destiny – eternal life with God or that of death; Moral truth is objective - and not relative to the personal whims (or impulses) of our culture, taste, or opinion. It is valid at all times and everywhere. God is the ultimate source of all moral truth; People have an innate sense of basic moral truth. Using human reason, we can understand the principles of this natural law. Sin clouds our vision of the truth, hence God has chosen to directly reveal the law to us; Conscience: Our conscience is used to apply the general principles of the law to situations – judging right or wrong in accordance with objective law. Conscience is not the source of those moral principles.

**Something to think about...** Our Catholic moral code is to love God and love neighbor. Focus: on the Beatitude, Ten Commandments (each commandment is a summary of a whole category of actions, i.e., bearing false witness against your neighbor covers any kind of falsehood – perjury, lying, slander, detraction, bragging, rash judgment, etc.. Each Commandment needs to be understood in the “**law of love**.”); and The Precepts of the Catholic Church.

**So, today and everyday...** Let us remember Catholic morality is the life we are to live remembering it is **not** life of the Godless (secular) culture of today. It is the life of Christ that we are to live – to love God and to love our neighbor - this is Catholic morality. We are to completely give ourselves to God and to others as Christ - to love and act with the heart of Christ Himself. This is our faith the same yesterday, today and forever tomorrow.

**BREAKFAST RUN**

The next run is scheduled for the morning of December 20. It is a breakfast run. Santa has told us he will make time from his schedule to bring our Christmas cheer to our brothers and sisters on the streets in Manhattan. Any donations of sack lunches, donuts, cookies or any holiday goodies will be greatly appreciated. We will meet on the morning of December 19 in the Sr Casserly Annex to prepare. We will plan to depart to Manhattan at 7 AM Sunday morning. Any assistance on Sunday morning preparing the food will be appreciated. For information about the run or to volunteer in any way, please contact Deacon John or Jessica Sadowski 786 5759. Thank you.

**FOOD PANTRY NEWS**

Our Christmas distribution will be **on Friday, December 18<sup>th</sup>**. For that distribution we are requesting instant potatoes, canned yams, cranberry sauce, stuffing, corn muffin mix, cake mix and frosting. We are also requesting gift cards to local grocery stores in place of collecting hams or turkeys.

Once again thank you to everyone for their overwhelming generosity! We are truly grateful. May our Father continue to bless you and yours. Best wishes from everyone at the food pantry for a wonderful Christmas and a New Year filled with good health and much happiness.

**CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE**

Immaculate Conception is once again sponsoring the Christmas Giving Tree to help needy families and individuals in our area. The Christmas Tree will be displayed with the tags in the vestibule of the Church. This year, Catholic Charities had to change from gifts and gift cards to gift cards only due to the pandemic. **We ask that you return the gift cards to the rectory no later than Monday, December 14th.** This is the final date due to the fact that Catholic Charities will be picking up on that day. This gives us sufficient time to get the gift cards to the people before Christmas. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. Thank you. (Please attach the original tags from the tree onto the gift card). It is most helpful. Our tree will be displayed before Advent.

**MASSES FOR THE WEEK**

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5TH**

5:30 *For the People of the Parish*

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6TH**

7:30 In Thanksgiving to St. Jude

9:30 Victoria & Joseph Felice (req. by family)

11:30 Dr. James Faherty (req. by family)

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 7TH**

7:30 John McGoldrick (req. by Ed & Ellen Goggin)

5:30 Vigil Noreen Skinner

(req. by Mike & Pauline Mason)

**FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8TH**

7:30 In Thanksgiving to the Blessed Mother

12 Noon The Orlandi Family

(req. by The DiGasbarro Family)

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9TH**

7:30 Mary Gaynor (req. by family)

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10TH**

7:30 Lydia Orlandi (req. by Anne P. Jones & Family)

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11TH**

7:30 Lila & Don Dombrowsky

(req. by The Perreca Family)

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12TH**

8:30 Donald Chichetti (req. by family)

5:30 Sylvester J. Jones

(req. by Mr. & Mrs. Thomas F. Sullivan Jr.)

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13TH**

7:30 *For the People of the Parish*

9:30 Lucia Corvasce (req. by family)

11:30 Margaret & Patrick Kilduff (req. by family)

**REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS**

**All those who are ill at home, in the hospital and in nursing homes, especially:** John Capria, Lauren Shields, Billy Keenan, Joyce Robinson, Mary Murnane, Ruth Ann Melia.

**Our recently deceased:** Glenn Russell, Bridget Knopf and Catherine Weigand.

**FROM THE DEACON'S BENCH  
THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK**

For nothing is difficult if we are willing, nothing  
burdensome if we apply ourselves. If we endure, we  
shall also reign with him  
2 Timothy

**FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION  
HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION**

**December 7<sup>th</sup> (Monday)**  
5:30 Vigil

**December 8<sup>th</sup> (Tuesday)**  
7:30 a.m. & 12 Noon

**CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE 2020**

**CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES**

**Thursday, December 24<sup>th</sup>**

**2:00 p.m.**

**4:30 p.m.**

**10:30 p.m.**

**CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES**

**Friday, December 25<sup>th</sup>**

**Stony Point Church – 7:30 a.m.**

**9:30 a.m. & 11:30 a.m.**

**BANNS OF MARRIAGE**

**Jason Dourlaris & Jeanine Jilleba (III)**

**RETIRED RELIGIOUS  
SECOND COLLECTION  
DECEMBER 13, 2020**

It's that special time of the year when we pause to give thanks to the Lord for the religious who have served and continue to serve the Church with much dedication and great distinction. Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup> our Parish will be conducting the annual collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious. **Please be generous in this second collection. Thank You.**

**An Act of Spiritual Communion**

**My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul.**

**Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen**

**SACRIFICIAL GIVING**

Sunday Collection Nov. 29, 2020 was:	\$4,911
Sunday Collection Dec. 1, 2019 was:	\$6,652
We Share for the Month of November	\$9,078

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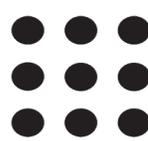
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