

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.

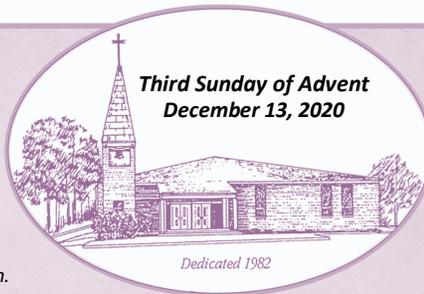
RCIA – Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults: A process for those who wish to enter the Catholic Faith, or for present Catholic individuals who after being baptized may need to receive the sacraments of Holy Eucharist and Confirmation. For more information, please call the Rectory Office.

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.

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.*



"Advent is the time we are given to welcome the Lord who comes to encounter us, and also to verify our longing for God, to look forward and prepare ourselves for Christ's return."

— Pope Francis



Third Sunday
of ADVENT

Joy

Dear Friends in Christ,

Today we celebrate Gaudete Sunday. It is profound today to draw attention that what we are waiting and preparing for this Advent, the coming of Christ, born of Mary.

In terms of preparing for Christmas, you are invited to bring to mass next weekend the baby Jesus figurine from the nativity scene from your homes so that they may be blessed at all masses. My hope is that the grace from this blessing may indeed enhance the homes and families where these figurines will be placed.

Next Monday, December 21st is Reconciliation Monday. People will have the opportunity here at Immaculate Conception to take part in the Sacrament of Reconciliation between the hours of 4:00 to 6:00 and again from 7:00 to 8:00. Confessions will be heard in the church with three stations available. Masks must be worn.

This afternoon would have been our Third Annual Christmas Pageant. Obviously, with the pandemic, we are not able to gather for this beautiful pageant. Recently, a video was posted on our parish Facebook page with a look back at the first two pageants set to a beautiful Christmas song. Also, a number of this year's eighth graders took part in speaking the Herald of the Angels to the Shepherds. We look forward to the return of the pageant next year.

Our upcoming celebration of Christmas Masses should not cause any anxiety. This year parishes can celebrate an earlier Christmas Eve Mass. This year, on Christmas Eve, we will have masses at 2:00, 4:30 and 10:30 pm. On Christmas Day, our regular 7:30, 9:30 and 11:30 am Masses will take place. Each Mass will be live streamed to provide for the possible overflow of a congregation present in the school.

We are presently allowed 33% of the capacity of the Church. Our church can hold 400 according to the Fire Code, that allows 133 people at each mass. Knowing that several parishioners are still self-distancing themselves at home, we look forward to more crowded Christmas Masses than our smaller numbers at Sunday Masses. Again, we can allow 133 people at each mass. Once we reach, if we reach that number, no one may enter the Church. This will be upsetting I am sure to people, but I ask for understanding at this difficult time. An idea being worked on is to allow any overflow to enter the school, and to view the mass live streamed on a large screen. If that can happen, communion would obviously be brought to the school for those present. I will have more definite information regarding this in next week's bulletin.

Your generosity to Immaculate Conception is so greatly appreciated! Week after week you are called upon to give of your gifts. Since March, considering the pandemic, our weekly collections have been good with all things considering. Many parishioners continue to mail their contributions weekly and we continue to see an increase every month in our online giving program WeShare. The upcoming Christmas Collection is one of the two major times in the year, the other being Easter, that parishioners traditionally give a major contribution to their parish church. The annual Christmas and Easter collections allow many parishes to meet the financial obligations they are faced with week after week. Knowing of the economic strife many of us are in, may I simply ask for prayerful reflection in your Christmas Offering this year.

May God in His Mercy and Love continue to watch over us and protect us.

Come Lord Jesus, Come!

-Fr. Herbert T. DeGaris

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

Basic Catholic Tradition

Did you know... Sacred Tradition comes from Christ. It's the full, living gift of Christ to the Apostles, faithfully handed down through each generation. Tradition means handing down something to another person.

Prove it: Scripture testifies to this way of Catholic Tradition as the normal mode of transmitting the Faith: “So then, brethren, stand firm and hold to the traditions which you were taught by us, either by word of mouth or by letter,” (2Thesso 2:15) “For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you...” (1Corinthians 11:23) “For I handed on to you as of first importance what I also received...” (1 Corinthians 15:3) “...I know whom I have believed (i.e., Jesus), and I am sure that He is able to guard until that Day what has been entrusted to me. Follow the pattern of the sound words which you have heard from me, in the faith and love which are in Christ Jesus; guard the truth that has been entrusted to you by the Holy Spirit who dwells within us.” (2 Timothy 1:11-14) “You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus, and what you have heard from me before many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.” (2 Timothy 2:1-2) “...I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.” (Jude 1:3).

Convinced? The most basic meaning of Catholic Tradition – it is the true Faith itself, given to the Apostles by Christ and faithfully transmitted to each new generation (CCC77-78). Catholic Tradition is written with a capital T to mean Sacred Tradition.

The Vatican Council II wrote the importance of seeing that Catholic Tradition is firmly rooted in the Apostles: it is Christ's whole gift to them and to us. In His gracious goodness, God has seen to it that what He had revealed for the salvation of all nations would abide perpetually in its full integrity and be handed on to all generations. Therefore, Christ the Lord in whom the full revelation of the supreme God is brought to completion..., *commissioned the Apostles* to preach to all men that Gospel which is the source of all saving truth and moral teaching, and to impart to them heavenly gifts (Dei Verbum 7).

It is “*commissioning of the Apostles*” that is fulfilled in the handing on of the Catholic Tradition. The Apostles dedicated themselves to this mission, and they appointed other faithful men to succeed them and carry on their work. Catholic Tradition stands with Scripture in forming our one Faith. Tradition and Scripture complement one another.

Vatican II's Dei Verbum speaks of “a close connection and communication between Sacred Tradition and Sacred Scripture”; “both of them...(flow) from the same divine wellspring.” “Sacred Scripture is the word of God inasmuch as it is consigned to writing under the inspiration of the divine Spirit, while Sacred Tradition takes the word of God entrusted by Christ the Lord and the Holy Spirit to the Apostles, and hands it on to their successors in its full purity.” The Church, “led by the light of the Spirit of truth,...may in proclaiming it preserve this word of God faithfully, explain it, and make it more widely known” (Dei Verbum, 9). Catholic Tradition is linked to the active work of the Holy Spirit.

Pope Benedict XVI stated Catholic Tradition is the active and continuous work of the Holy Spirit: it makes real and tangible “the active presence of the Lord Jesus in His people, realized by the Holy Spirit.” Being able to see Catholic Tradition as the active presence of Christ through the work of the Holy Spirit is what accomplishes the “transmission of the goods of salvation” to us. **Sacred Tradition is something far different than mere human traditions.**

Something to think about... Catholic Tradition is the true Faith itself, given to the Apostles by Christ and faithfully transmitted to each new generation.

So, today and everyday... Let us be mindful that it is through Catholic Tradition, the Holy Spirit works to bring the grace and truth of Christ into our own lives. It is real and it is living now in the Catholic Church - “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us,” (John 1:14). 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.

**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 13th our Parish will be conducting the annual collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious.

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

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

**What we give to the poor for Christ's sake is
what we carry with us when we die.
Peter Marurin**

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12TH

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)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 14TH

7:30 John G. Griffin (req. by family)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15TH

7:30 Kathleen Javenes (req. by The Goggin Family)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16TH

7:30 Ray Winheim & Michael Fay

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17TH

7:30 In Thanksgiving to St. Anthony

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18TH

7:30 Herbert B. & Philomena DeGaris

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19TH

8:30 Regina & Francis A. Brophy (req. by family)
5:30 Dr. James Faherty (req. by family)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20TH

7:30 Cathleen Devlin (req. by family)
9:30 *For the People of the Parish*
11:30 Gerald 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: Charles Kwiecinski.



CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE 2020**CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES****Thursday, December 24th****2:00 p.m.****4:30 p.m.****10:30 p.m.****CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES****Friday, December 25th****Stony Point Church – 7:30 a.m.****9:30 a.m. & 11:30 a.m.****FOOD PANTRY NEWS**

Our Christmas distribution will be **on Friday, December 18th**. 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).

*The Flowers this Week are
In Honor and Thanksgiving to
Our Mother
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Adopt a Grandparent for the Holidays

It's that wonderful time of year when we all have a chance to do something to help make the holiday special for someone else!

I am partnering with the Northern Riverview Healthcare Center in Haverstraw NY in a program called "Adopt a Grandparent". Many residents are alone and don't get gifts for the Holidays.

I am looking for businesses and individuals to "Adopt a Grandparent".

For only \$15 per resident, they will receive a pampering gift of a pair of soft, fuzzy socks and either a fragrance free hand cream or a Foot and Leg Lotion. Your \$15 per resident will enable them to have a Happy Holiday.

Giving back to the elderly is a great way to touch people who are too often forgotten this time of year!

To participate: Contact Arlene Linke
845-786-5592 or email:

ALinkeMusicMKay@aol.com<mailto:ALinkeMusicMKay@aol.com>

SACRIFICIAL GIVING

Sunday Collection Dec. 6, 2020 was: \$5,594
Sunday Collection Dec. 8, 2019 was: \$7,001

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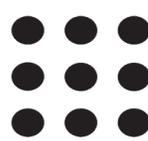
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