

Immaculate Conception Parish

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH
ST. MARY'S ACADEMY
ST. MARY'S CEMETERY



Jesus is born for us....by the kids at St. Mary's Academy

BISHOP OF ALBANY DIOCESE:

Edward Scharfenberger

BISHOP EMERITUS: Howard Hubbard

OUR PARISH OFFICE & MAILING ADDRESS

67 Main Street

Hoosick Falls, NY 12090

PHONE: 518-686-5064

E-MAIL: immconcept@roadrunner.com

OFFICE HOURS: Monday—Friday 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM

WEBSITE: www.icchoosickfalls.com

PASTOR: Fr. Tom Zelker

tomzelker@gmail.com

Office Secretary: Tina Becker

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION MASS SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, 4 PM & SUNDAY, 9 AM

RECONCILIATION, SATURDAY AT 3 PM

TRUSTEES: Elizabeth Ferrannini & Ed Gorman

FINANCE COUNCIL: Krissy Fauler

PASTORAL COUNCIL MEMBERS

Virginia Cuddihy, Mike Brewster,

Jerry D'Acchille, Rick Ferrannini,

Karen Kaufman, JoAnn Shea and the two Trustees

MUSIC MINISTRY: Richard Cherry

WORSHIP & ENVIRONMENT: Marie Slattery

LITURGY SCHEDULE

Saturday, December 23

4:00 PM Mass

Michael & Jennifer Bakaitis

Sunday, December 24

9:00 AM Mass

Patrick Flynn

Ron Dooley



4:00 PM

Christmas Mass

at Immaculate Conception Church

"For Peace Everywhere"

6:00 PM

Christmas Mass

at St. Patrick's Church

6:30 PM

Christmas Mass

at Immaculate Conception Church

"Respecting All Life"

Monday, December 25

9:00 AM

Christmas Mass

at Immaculate Conception Church

"For Our Families"

11:00 AM

Christmas Mass

at St. Patrick's Church

Wednesday, December 27

NO MASS

Friday, December 29

12 Noon Mass

"For Government & Church Leaders"

Saturday, December 30

4:00 PM Mass

"For Our Families"

Sunday, December 31

9:00 AM Mass

"For Our Families"

SANCTUARY LAMP

12/24/17 - 12/30/17

In honor of the Risen Christ
we remember:

Deceased Members of the
Kelly & Clarke Families



Please bring any type of the following items:
tuna fish, canned fruit, canned goods, cookie/cake mixes or toiletry items to our
donation box in church. There is always a need for old bags to be reused.
FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEERS ... We are looking for volunteers at the Food Pantry
to help. If you are interested, please call Dianne Hosterman at 686-5310.

PARISH MEETING

Sunday, January 21, 2017

10:00 AM, at the church

We have had a few weeks to process the information we heard during the meetings held on November 11, and 12th regarding our parish. Now it is time to meet again and share what we heard and how we felt after those meetings.

This conversation will continue to help crystalize our parish vision. Continue to consider the following questions:

- What is the justice in spending large amounts of money when there are other humanitarian needs in our community and the world?
- What is our greatest debt to our tradition and to future generations?
- Are the People of God the Church? Is a building? Both? How?
- Should our worship space be renewed to encourage more active participation at Mass?
- How do we become more engaged disciples of Christ?
- How do we honestly, realistically face population changes, fewer Catholics, fewer priests, dwindling resources, and the busyness of parishioners?
- How can we become a self-supporting parish? "Please come and take a packet that shows our financial status and projections."
– Proverbs 15:22 "Without counsel plans fail, but with many advisers they succeed."

STONE SOUP GROUP

The Stone Soup story teaches us that if we each give a little, if we share what we have, we can achieve a lot. With colder days and longer nights, let us share and give a little by making an extra pot of soup. We can share with the Food Pantry, residents at Wood Bridge, and Wood Park apartments. You decide on the amount of soup, as few as 10 bowls, or as many as 30 or more. **How can you take part?**

- Sign up at church - there will be a signup sheet on a table at the entrance of the church and Beth Ferrannini will be scheduling people before and after 9:00AM mass on Sundays. Or
- Call Beth Ferrannini at 518-686-4728 or call/text at 518-207-7727 and arrange for the day most convenient for you.
- Soup containers will be provided.
- For your convenience, you may leave your soup at the Rectory and delivery will be arranged, or you can deliver yourself.

Call Beth Ferrannini if you have any questions. Please no spicy or cream based soup. If you have not read the Stone Soup folktale, it is worth reading.

— Philipians 2:4 "Do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others."

HELP FOR THE HOMELESS AND FELLOW TRAVELLERS

As people pass through and need help, we are putting together "containers of compassion." Items needed: granola bars, fruit roll ups, individual juice boxes, trail mix, and personal hygiene items. They can be brought to church. Thank you.

CHANGE FOR THE GOOD

We have a change collection box at the entrance of our church. Spare change can be dropped off any time. These donations will be used to support good charities that serve our people. This is a place where all jingling contributions are welcome.

NEW ALTAR SERVERS

Anyone in 3rd grade or older is invited to help out at Mass as an altar server. Please see Fr. Tom Zelker.

ST. MARY'S ACADEMY

4 PARSONS AVENUE, HOOSICK FALLS, NY
PHONE: (518) 686-4314, FAX: (518) 686-5957

Principal, Mrs. Amanda Goyer
Mrs. Mary Beth Smith, Secretary

St. Mary's Academy is the parish school of the Immaculate Conception Faith Community. Founded in 1891, St. Mary's Academy provides education for students beginning in Pre-Kindergarten and continuing through Grade 8.



Dear Friends of SMA,

From all of us at SMA, we wish you a merry and blessed Christmas season!

SMA will be closed until Tuesday, January 2nd. School resumes on Wednesday, January 3rd.

As always, I encourage you to stop by and visit your parish school.

With many blessings,
-Mrs. Amanda Goyer-

CAUGHT UP IN THE SPIRIT!

What would you like to do to witness to Christ? ...to make a difference in our world, our community?

- ⇒ Write birthday cards to homebound parishioners
- ⇒ Send thank you cards to the military
- ⇒ Visit nursing home parishioners
- ⇒ Bake cookies for kids
- ⇒ Email Congress lobbying for the poor
- ⇒ Send a card to seminarians
- ⇒ Help with hospitality at Mass
- ⇒ Send a Mass card to a bereaved family
- ⇒ Greet people at Church
- ⇒ Or something new and wonderful you would like to begin or help with.



Our next class is

Sunday, January 7th

All classes are at St. Mary's Academy.

Contact Deb Kapron, Deb Mahar, or our parish office today.

CHRISTMAS

The liturgies of Christmas as set out in our prayers and Bible readings seek to express and shape the spirituality not of one person or of a single cultural community but of the entire church bodies of those baptized into the Passover of Jesus Christ. They set before us the powerful challenge of the Christmas child who is not our personal or communal past but the dawning future we share with all humanity. Advent has prepared us for the child of the Christmas texts. We have heard the prophets proclaim the One who is to come as child to lead us into the reign of God unfolding toward completion. We recognize him in the infant sung by angelic hosts as the one in whom peace is made for all humankind. But in all the liturgies of this joyful season, the angelic melody is sung in counterpoint to all the other texts recalling that our peace is made not through his clinging to childhood but through his growing into that fully divinized human glory of which the child was only the promise. It is through dark passages of suffering and death that the Christmas child shall lead us, stripping us of every hindrance we have gathered over the years, until we are set free to join him in that mature wholeness, as yet beyond our imagining.

When we assemble for liturgy in the season of Christmas, then, we are a Church haunted by a child with many faces. Each of us brings to the assembly the image of the child within, whether that child be possibility or prison. Each of our local communities brings the images wrought by our devotional arts, whether those images be of past childishness or future maturity. Gathered as Church, within the living tradition of faith that spans centuries and continents, we proclaim the Child in whom meet the eternal paradoxes of divinity and humanity, birth and death, innocence and suffering, of which is wrought the shared adulthood of the one Body into which we are baptized. Our personal and communal imagery of childhood enables us to recognize in this Child not a dogmatic abstraction but the genuine fulfillment of our nameless yearning for some elusive land long promised. Yet the Christmas Child is also a gauntlet thrown down before the potential possessiveness of our personal and devotional spiritualities, unwilling to relinquish the pleasantly undemanding images of childishness to which we have grown accustomed for the radically demanding journey across desert and mountain and river to reach the place where the true Child is born. In the vulnerability of Christmas, the Child forever offers us Herod's choice. We can still our fear of the threat to our comfort by smothering the proclamation in the tight swaddling clothes of sentimental spiritualities. Or we can lay the gift of all our inadequate images beside the gold, the frankincense and myrrh, and bow the knee in worship. Then will the Child in whose image we are being made become our end...and our Beginning.



The brass ensemble and lighting of our Christmas Tree



Christmas 1956...Barbara and Tommy

MERRY CHRISTMAS QUIZ!

"O Come all ye Faithful"...We celebrate Christmas!

What is the Gospel truth about Jesus and his birth, life, death, and Resurrection? Take this Quiz and try not to be influenced by "made for TV movies," Christmas cards, popular songs, or our sanitized cultural holiday. What do the Gospels, the heart of our faith, tell us about Jesus? How does the truth about Christmas deepen our encounter with God?

1. On what day was Jesus born?
2. In what kind of dwelling was Jesus born in according to the Gospel of Matthew? Where did the magi find Jesus' family? (Matthew 2:9-11)
3. How many magi were there? (Matthew 2:1-2)
4. In this Gospel, what leads the magi to Jesus? (Matthew 2:1-2)
5. According to the Gospel, what are their names?
6. In the Gospel of Luke, (2:16), where did the shepherds find Jesus?
7. In the Gospel of Luke, Jesus is born in a manger because there was no room for them at the inn. And there were shepherds and angels proclaiming peace to all as Jesus' birth was heralded. Why are there two different stories? Should we try to merge them?
8. The magi react positively to Jesus' birth; who responds in a negative way? (Matthew 2:13-16)
9. Joseph takes Jesus to Egypt and then comes back to Israel. Who is Jesus being compared to? Why?
10. What are the 12 days of Christmas? And how long does this church season last? Sometimes Christmas trees are thrown out December 26!



**MAY THE BLESSING OF CHRISTMAS
BE YOURS EVERYDAY**

Thanks to all who minister and work so diligently in the many facets of our parish: decorators and cleaners, singers snow shovellers, ministers at Mass, visitors to our homebound, teachers and staff, food pantry folks, and our smiling children.

'TIS THE SEASON

Caroling - Saturday, December 30th at 5:15 PM. Gathering on our Church steps. We sing Christmas in our neighborhoods. Hot chocolate, too!

FIRST DAY HIKE

Monday, January 1st at 12:30 PM. Leaving the rectory for Matteson Hollow Trail, Cherry Plain. A family level walk along a crystal clear trout brook, through forests of pine and hemlock. A great way to begin 2018!

MARY, MOTHER OF GOD FEAST DAY

Monday, January 1, 2018. A New Year begins with our holy day of opportunity. Mass 9 AM at Immaculate Conception Church and 11 AM at St. Patrick's Church.

ANSWERS TO THE QUIZ

Remember the Gospels were written as faith statements from the early Christian communities about who Jesus Christ, the Risen Savior, is for them. It was never intended to be read as science, history, or like a newspaper. Each story gives deeper meaning about Christ and God's people rather than simply reading words on paper. Don't settle for less but always search for more!

1. We don't know the date of Jesus' birth. There was an ancient pagan festival during the age of the Roman Empire that celebrated the birth of "Mithras," the Sun God on December 25, when the sun was "reborn" as the days got longer after the winter solstice. Early Christians saw the obvious...the birth of the Sun of God...even though other dates for Jesus' birth had been proposed. The actual day and year are not important...the birth of God in the depth of our humanity is important.
2. They live in a house. St. Francis of Assisi popularized the manger scene in the 1200's. It's more heartwarming than just having a house.
3. We don't know. "Some" is often the word used. Over the course of the centuries, in Christian tradition, there have been two to twelve magi (or astronomers, magicians, priests, kings). The number 3 comes from the gifts given (symbolizing Jesus' life, death, and Resurrection). The "3 Kings" comes from a song written in the mid 1800's...not the Gospel. The lesson is that they represent the best of pagan lore and religious practice and understanding. They are foreigners searching for the truth. God, in Jesus, is revealed to the whole world...not one clan, nation, or religion.
4. The star. But they need the revelation of Scripture to find Jesus in Bethlehem.
5. None are given...such as Hormizdah, Yazdegerd, Hor, Basanater, and Gaspar.
6. In the manger, the inn was where travelers, visitors, or a foreigner would stay...and then leave. The manger is the feeding trough...the new Table of the Lord where God's People are nourished. God dwells with his people. Also, shepherds were despised; the lowest rung of society. Now they are the first witnesses to Christ. They see and understand. They come to faith.
7. Remember these are two different faith stories; when we merge them, we lose their real purpose. The infancy stories in Luke and Matthew are like preludes for a great work of music...they show the major themes in the rest of the work. Luke's Gospel is concerned for the poor and the outcast...Jesus is revealed to the poorest and lowest of society...the shepherds. Jesus' family is from Nazareth, yet he isn't born at the inn...where travelers and strangers stayed for a short time and then moved on to a manager...to feed his people and remain with them (at the Lord's Table) forever. Matthew's community is made up of foreigners and non-Jewish people. So Jesus is revealed as God for all kinds of people...even those far away. Instructed by Scripture, they came to believe and went home transformed by the love of God to share the Good News. Don't just make the Gospels a cute story...Christmas is so much more than that! The Gospels of John and Mark do not mention the birth stories. In John, Jesus is the eternal Word that became human flesh...God truly born among us. Mark's Gospel begins with the baptism of Jesus when he starts his ministry of Spirit filled witness to God.
8. King Herod...the Gospels always present us with choices...for God and people or against.
9. Moses...for Jesus is the new Exodus...the new Passover who leads all people from bondage, slavery, sin, fear, and death into the life and love of God.
10. The Church seasons are liturgical...prayerful expressions of the community. Easter is celebrated for 50 days...lots of joy and life! Lent is 40 days...a journey of preparation for Easter. Advent is 4 Sundays of expectation and anticipation in preparation for Christmas and our future. Our Christmas season begins on December 25 (or the vigil) and ends at the celebration of Jesus' Baptism...this year on January 8, 2018. We need these days of Christmas because, as one of our prayers states, "we are caught up in the love of God whom we cannot see yet now is born in time among us." We need to let this sink in an revel in the mystery revealed in us. Epiphany was usually on January 6...thence the 12 days of Christmas. This date, too, has changed over time and place...so the song does not "fit" our Christmas season anymore. Do not be limited by music on the radio, Walmart, or store sales days, or even when we decorate our homes (trees do shed needles on the floor). Join in the celebration of the fullness and richness of this wonder-filled season and let the birth of God's love come everyday in you.

**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH
DECEMBER & DECEMBER 17, 2017**

This Week: December 23 & December 24, 2017

Lay Ministers: See Sign Up Sheets

Counters: Judy Flynn, Peg Bakaitis, & Jerry McAuliffe

Christmas Counters: December 27, 2017 at 9:00 AM

Counters: Mary Merriam, Peg Bakaitis, & Jerry McAuliffe

Next Week: December 30 & December 31, 2017

Lay Ministers: Team #2

Counters: Mike Shea & Mike Bailey

(It is your responsibility to find a substitute if you are unable to serve.)

YOUR SACRIFICIAL OFFERINGS & ATTENDANCE

YOUR SACRIFICIAL OFFERINGS December 16 & 17:

Offertory.....\$3,310.00

Faith Formation.....\$75.00

Immaculate Conception.....\$148.00

Candles.....\$19.00

Total: \$3,552.00

ATTENDANCE December 16 & 17:

4 PM.....145 9 AM.....198 Total: 343

Holy Communion...Please be sure to let one of the greeters know if you are unable to approach the altar. The usher will then make arrangements for Communion to be brought to your pew.

BULLETIN SUBMISSION GUIDELINES ...

The Bulletin deadline for new submissions is noon on Tuesday. Send submissions to: immconcept@roadrunner.com along with your name and phone number.

WE ASK FOR YOUR PRAYERS FOR THE FOLLOWING:

Linda Bump, Bob Smith, Alexandra Lettre, Ken Burns, Marcus Martinez, Helen Restino, Baby Rousseau, Frank Novak, Bill Green, Neil Waytkus, Pat Finzer, Mary McCaffery, Chick Thurber, Luka Vincent Raziano, Armand Rousseau, Robert Sargood, Scott Williams, Marie Godfrey, Mary Carter, Sandy Freeman, Kari Bornt, Diane Grogan, Corinne Philpott, Helen Hogan, David Martin, Rosemary O'Malley, Mary Slingerland, Cheryl Kresky, and William Plisko. Those who have been on the list for quite some time will still be prayed for, but will not appear in the bulletin. If you are in need of prayer for yourself or someone you know, please call: Margaret O'Malley at 686-7835.

ELECTRONIC GIVING

Our automatic withdrawal system is working well. This may be an easy way for you to support our parish. Please contact our office for more information.

ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK ...

TAX PREPARATION

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