

Immaculate Conception Parish

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

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

Facebook page: Immaculate Conception Hoosick Falls

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, Dave Stagnitti & Mike Sanders

PASTORAL COUNCIL MEMBERS

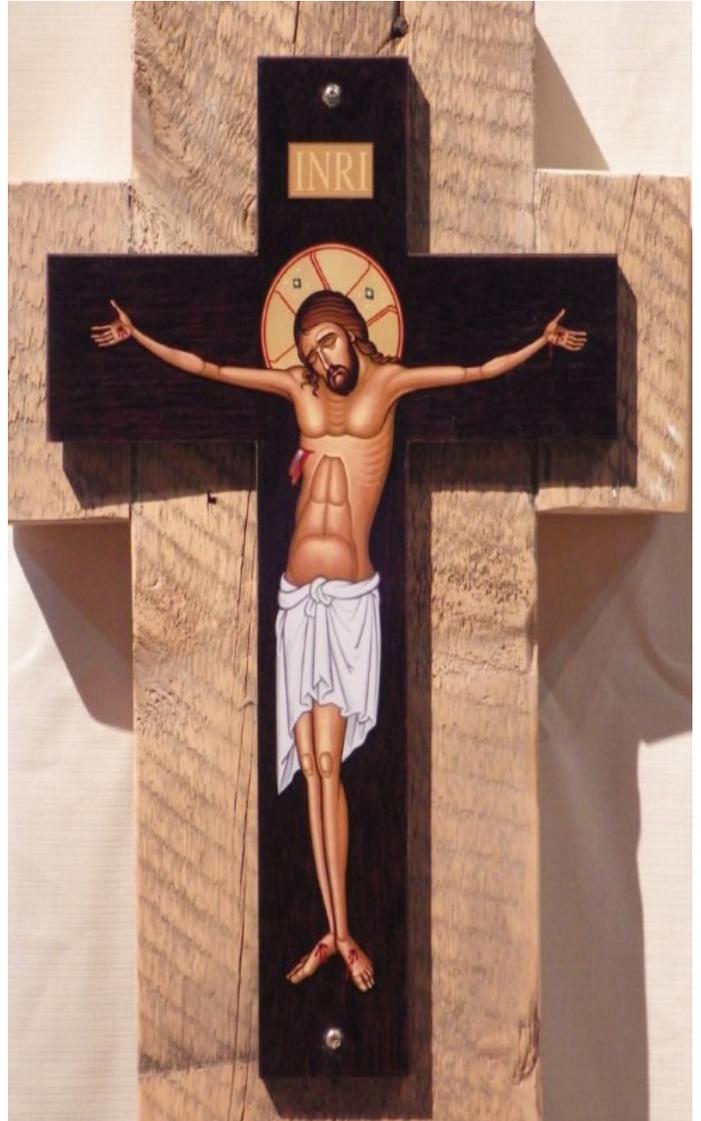
Virginia Cuddihy, Mike Brewster,

Jerry D'Acchille, Rick Ferrannini,

Karen Kaufman, JoAnn Shea and the two Trustees

MUSIC MINISTRY: Richard Cherry

WORSHIP & ENVIRONMENT: Marie Slattery



WE PRAY LENT

We follow the Cross of Jesus, built from the very foundation beams of our Church, as we begin our Lenten liturgies of conversion. Purples signify our yearnings for a change of heart, becoming Christ's People of reconciling love. Pussy willows remind us of a new spring-time of faith. Our bells are stilled; one water font gathers us as one people of the Creed. In the name of God we are assured of boundless mercy as we sing the ancient Greek of our early Church: "Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison, Kyrie eleison". We listen intently to the living Word of God. Our response to the Hebrew Scriptures is Psalm 80: "Save us, O Lord; carry us back. Rouse your power and come. Rescue your people; show us your face. Bring us back." Our Gospel Alleluia is silenced until its joyful strains return at Easter. We gather around the Lord's Table as our lives are transformed into the Body and Blood of Christ. We sing this mystery: "We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again." Our Communion unites us as a sacred people of mission. We remember that "We are called, we are chosen. We are Christ for one another. We are harvest and hunger. We are question and creed. We are promised into tomorrow." We are sent out in reflective silence, filled with faith, awe, and love as People of the Cross, Disciples of Christ.



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.

RESPECT LIFE

Our world is filled with chaos and acts so heinous we will never know "why?" Let us reach beyond the confusion, beyond ourselves. Reach out to those in need, give a voice to the voiceless. Together we can return to a culture of love, a culture of life. Chaos and darkness will not prevail if we take on this task.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PRAYER

All praise to you Creating God for the gift of your word who resounds deep within us all. At the very beginning, you spoke and chaos gave birth to all that lives and breathes. In the fullness of time your Word became flesh in the womb of Mary, the image of your church. Your Word called the first disciples of Jesus to holiness of heart, unity in service, and selflessness in love. We thank you for all the women and men, enthused with faith, who built a home for us in Hoosick Falls. And now we ask you for Holy Wisdom as we seek to rebuild our community on the foundation of Christ. With Mary, and all the saints, we are a sacrament of hope. May we be so for ages to come. Amen.

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.

HOOSICK TURKEY VULTURE FESTIVAL

When will the birds return? A dollar a chance...prizes galore...the money supports blue bird houses in our area. Write your name and the date you think our red headed scavengers will return home to Hoosick.

WILDLIFE EXPO AND OUTDOOR SHOW

Friday, March 9th at SMA from 12:30 PM to 6:00 PM. Pezzer and Gary with animals of our area; wood carvings by Ray; Kayaking and caving demos with Jeremy. Fly Fishing instruction with Ben and the Nature Conservancy and AmeriCorps with information with Dylan.

WHERE DO YOU FIT IN?

WE ALL HAVE A PLACE HERE AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION!
 It's a Fair! Who does not like a fair?



Immaculate Conception is having a Ministry Fair after mass on Saturday, March 3rd and Sunday, March 4th to celebrate the many ministries supported by our parish. Representatives of each ministry will be available to talk about their ministry and share their experiences.

Consider ways that you can be more fully engaged in the life of our parish or consider new ministries that are not currently in place at ICC. Prayerfully discern what special skills and talents that you may share with our parish community.

Through the gifts of time and talent that our parishioners so generously share, we are able to truly be the hands and feet of Jesus Christ in our parish and our community.

Please contact Beth Ferrannini 518-686-4728 or 518-207-7727

LITURGY SCHEDULE

Saturday, February 24

4:00 PM Mass

Ersel Hickey

Catherine Stempek Hoffman

Sunday, February 25

9:00 AM Mass

Betty & Freddie Yager

James & Kathleen O'Neil

Fr. Rich Broderick

Monday, February 26

12 Noon Mass

For America's Children

Wednesday, February 28

8:30 AM Mass

St. Patrick's

12:00 Noon

Ecumenical Prayer Service and Lunch at the Hoosick Falls Baptist Church

Hosted by

Immaculate Conception Church

Friday, March 2

12 Noon Mass

Manuel Custodio

Saturday, March 3

4:00 PM Mass

Deceased Members

of the Niegoda Families

Barbara Pierce

Sunday, March 4

9:00 AM Mass

Vern Weeden

NEW HORIZONS OF FAITH: BEATITUDES OF CHRISTIAN LIVING

They're ALL our kids; and thoughts and prayers aren't enough.

It has been less than 20 years since 15 people were killed in the Columbine High School massacre. Since then there have been 270 shootings at a school across the US, resulting in 141 people killed.

The latest mass murder in South Florida was the 17th shooting at a school in 2018; that's one every 63 hours.

"Since Columbine in 1999, there have been 25 fatal, active school shootings at elementary and high schools in America," said Fox News host Shepard Smith. "It's astounding, isn't it...we have all the resources in the world, and we can't figure out why this happens in our country and it doesn't happen everywhere else."

Why have we done so little to prevent a gun from going off in our schools? We need to demand our representatives act now, before more of our children are destroyed.

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.



St. Mary's Academy

Established in 1891

Parish School of Immaculate Conception Church

4 Parsons Avenue Hoosick Falls, NY 12090 Phone: 518-686-4314 Fax: 518-686-5957 www.smahf.org

February 13, 2018

Dear Parents and Guardians:

St. Mary's Academy is preparing for important changes coming in September designed to set SMA on a path to long-term success for both our students and our institution.

Enrollment in our Pre-K3 and Pre-K4 programs are excellent and represents more than a third of our entire student population across all 11 grades (2 Pre-K grades and K-8). Unfortunately, the class sizes in our two highest grades has become too small to sustain those grades, and St. Mary's Academy has struggled with significant operating losses over the last two years, including a nearly \$50,000 shortfall this year.

We want to be in charge of our destiny and shape our future rather than let changing demographics dictate our future. Therefore, beginning next year, St. Mary's Academy will become a Pre-K to sixth-grade school, discontinuing seventh and eighth grade, unfortunately.

We will work closely with the students currently in our sixth and seventh grades and their families to help them find a suitable placement for the remainder of their middle school years. For our staff who will be affected by the changes, we are working with the Diocesan Catholic School Office to assist them in finding other positions that may be available at other Diocesan schools. We are, as always, grateful for the support of the Diocesan Catholic School Office, the Diocesan School Board, and Bishop Edward B. Scharfenberger, all of whom reviewed and approved our plan.

Our current fifth-graders will also see important changes when they enter sixth grade next year, as we will be incorporating more technology into our core curriculum through distance learning. Sixth-graders will participate in a state-of-the-art videoconferencing class for math instruction, where they will work with a teacher from Holy Spirit School in East Greenbush remotely during class.

The multi-age classroom approach we have been using this year will be adjusted to better address the educational needs of students as we move forward. More information will be available on all our classroom changes at the St. Mary's Academy state of the school address on Tuesday, March 20th beginning at 6:00pm.

We will also be working to expand our Pre-K program, to meet the growing need from families in our community and to keep St. Mary's Academy a strong and sustainable source for Catholic education for generations to come.

Students will be notified with age-appropriate information on Thursday, Feb. 15.

We recognize change can be unsettling. That's why we want to provide you with this information more than six months before the start of the next school year. Please know that we both will make ourselves available to answer any questions you may have in the coming weeks or months.

During the upcoming season of Lent, we are reminded that the comfort of a familiar past, as the disciples had with Jesus, does not always last. But we embrace that change knowing its value on our future and ask that all of you keep each other in your prayers as we move forward.

Thank you in advance for your time and attention, and most especially, thank you for your continued support of SMA.

Sincerely,

Father Thomas Zelker
Pastor

Amanda Goyer
Principal

SEE QUESTION AND ANSWERS NEXT PAGE

Questions & Answers

Q. Why are you removing 7th and 8th grades?

A. The number of students in our two oldest grades has been steadily declining, and has reached a point where those grades are causing significant operating deficits for our school.

Q. Couldn't you save money another way and keep those grades?

A. We reviewed a broad range of options, including keeping 7th and 8th grades, but because of the limited number of students in those grades, it is impossible to sustain them without suffering significant losses that would imperil the entire school over time.

Q. Why couldn't you keep the grades for one more year, so 7th graders could finish their elementary school years here?

A. Continuing those grades for another year would mean one more year of operating losses that aren't sustainable and would put the future of the entire school at additional risk. And the financial loss would likely be further exaggerated as current 6th graders move elsewhere and we have even fewer 7th graders next year, putting our school into a deeper financial hole.

Q. When were these decisions made?

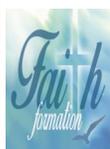
A. As this year's budget deficit became clear late last year, the school administration and our school board began looking at options. A sub committee was formed to look at potential options. We presented a plan to the Diocesan School Board and discussed the best approach to putting the school back on financially solid footing in December. The Diocesan School Board reviewed our proposal and recommended it to Bishop Scharfenberger, who endorsed the plan this month.

Q. How will students who struggle with math get the individual attention they need?

A. Holy Spirit's math teacher will be communicating with the students in real-time via video-conferencing, and students will enter the video-conference using their Chromebooks (provided by SMA). Every student will be able to use a chat button on their screen to "virtually" raise their hand with a question. For students who may need additional help, time will be set aside for individual student teleconferences with the teacher as needed.



**Apres tubing fun
at Willard Mt**



NEXT CLASS March 4th

All classes are at St. Mary's Academy.

Class assistants are needed. Yes, you can help make a difference in a child's life....contact Deb Kapron, Deb Mahar, or our parish office today.

WE CELEBRATE CONFIRMATION

God's Life giving Spirit who engages us to be Church.

Thursday, May 17, 2018 at 6:30 PM Bishop Howard Hubbard will lead us in prayer; our dinner will be held at St. Mary's Hall. Our required retreat for all candidates will be Sunday, March 18th, beginning at 10:15 AM. We expect parents to join in our discussion of life, death, God, hope, joy, and community.



- ◆ Reconciliation Service -
 - ⇒ Monday, March 5th at 6 PM at Immaculate Conception Church.
 - ⇒ Monday, March 19th at 6:30 PM at St. Patrick's Church, Cambridge.
- ◆ "The Little Black Book" is available offering 6 minute daily reflections on the Passion according to Mark.
- ◆ Stations of the Cross booklets are available for your prayer in church.
- ◆ Wednesday Noontime Ecumenical Prayer and Lunch at the Hoosick Falls Baptist Church. We gather together for reflection on Matthew's Gospel: "come you have my Father's blessing... whatsoever, you do to my sisters and brothers..." We come together as disciples of Jesus, fellow Christians, and share God's Word and share soup and sandwich. (Our parish "hosts" on February 28th...we need sandwich makers...please sign up at Church).
- ◆ Always Open. Our church is open and lighted 24 hours a day for quiet prayer, meditation, adoration, heart walks, and rest. In the name of Christ, all are welcome.
- ◆ Rice Bowls - We support the ministry of our church in caring for people locally and around the world. Catholic Relief Services provides food for families, seeds for farmers, and emergency kits for refugees.
- ◆ Best Ever Lent - Don't Give Up Chocolate for Lent. We are invited to join with the faithful all over our country for BEST LENT EVER, a free email program from Dynamic Catholic. Lent comes every year. It's meant to be a time when we invite God to help us become the-best-version-of-ourselves. But for many of us, Lent isn't a transformative experience. It's just a time when we give up chocolate or something else we enjoy, then go back to it at Easter. This year, you can change that with BEST LENT EVER. You'll receive daily emails with short inspirational videos, practical tips for your everyday life, and real-life stories to encourage you in your journey. All you have to do is sign up at DynamicCatholic.com/BestLent.

A LENT OF OPPORTUNITY

- Fast from judging others; Feast on Christ dwelling in them.
- Fast from emphasis on differences; Feast on the unity of all life.
- Fast from apparent darkness; Feast on the reality of all light.
- Fast from thoughts of illness; Feast on the healing power of God.
- Fast from words that pollute; Feast on phrases that purify.
 - Fast from discontent; Feast on gratitude.
 - Fast from anger; Feast on patience.
 - Fast from pessimism; Feast on optimism.
 - Fast from worry; Feast on God's providence.
 - Fast from complaining; Feast on God's appreciation.
 - Fast from negatives; Feast on affirmatives.
- Fast from unrelenting pressures; Feast on unceasing prayer.
 - Fast from hostility; Feast on non-resistance.
 - Fast from bitterness; Feast on forgiveness.
- Fast from self-concern; Feast on compassion for others.
 - Fast from personal anxiety; Feast on external truth.
 - Fast from discouragement; Feast on hope.
- Fast from facts that depress; Feast on verities that uplift.
 - Fast from lethargy; Feast on enthusiasm.
 - Fast from suspicion; Feast on truth.
- Fast from thoughts that weaken; Feast on promises that inspire.
 - Fast from shadows of sorrow; Feast on the sunlight of serenity.
 - Fast from idle gossip; Feast on purposeful silence.
- Fast from problems that overwhelm; Feast on prayer that sustains.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH
FEBRUARY 24 & FEBRUARY 25, 2018

This Week: February 24 & February 25, 2018

Lay Ministers: Team #4

Counters: Judy Flynn , Peg Bakaitis & Jerry McAuliffe

Next Week: March 3 & March 4, 2018

Lay Ministers: Team #1

Counters: Mike Shea, Gina Harrison & Andrea White

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

YOUR SACRIFICIAL OFFERINGS & ATTENDANCE

YOUR SACRIFICIAL OFFERINGS February 17 & 18:

Offertory.....\$3,383.00

SMA.....\$15.00

Home Missions.....\$115.00

Candles.....\$15.00

Total: \$ 3,528.00

ATTENDANCE February 17 & 18:

4 PM.....138 9 AM.....109 Total: 247

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.

WE ASK FOR YOUR PRAYERS FOR THE FOLLOWING:

Ken Burns, Neil Waytkus, Pat Finzer, Mary McCaffery, Chick Thurber, Luka Vincent Raziano, Robert Sargood, Scott Williams, Marie Godfrey, Mary Carter, Diane Grogan, Corinne Philpott, David Martin, Rosemary O'Malley, Cheryl Kresky, William Plisko, Jim Baker, Judy Quackenbush, and Nancy Hardesty. 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.



- ♦ Wednesday mornings at 10 AM: Bulletin proofreaders. **Call the office.**
- ♦ Sunday morning: Collection counters. **Call the office.**
- ♦ Lectors (readers) at Mass: **See Mary Merriam, Gloria Shufon, or call the office. 686-5064**

ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK ...

MAGGIE'S BEAUTY SHOP

Maggie Kinney
27 Main St.

Hoosick Falls, NY 12090

(518) 686-6244

maggie@maggiesbeautyshop.com

www.maggiesbeautyshop.com