

Immaculate Conception Parish



Advent

Christ be our Light



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 9:00 AM - 3:30 PM

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WEBSITE: www.icchoosickfalls.com

Facebook page: Immaculate Conception Hoosick Falls

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION MASS SCHEDULE:

HELD AT FIRST UNITED CHURCH

SATURDAY, 4 PM & SUNDAY, 9 AM

TRUSTEES: Ed Gorman & Ellen Scott

FINANCE COUNCIL:

Krissy Fauler, Dave Stagnitti, Mike Sanders & Linda Billert

PASTORAL COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Virginia Cuddihy, Mike Brewster

Jerry D'Acchille, Rick Ferrannini

Karen Kaufman, and the two Trustees

MUSIC MINISTRY: Richard Cherry

WORSHIP AND ENVIRONMENT: Lynne Mango

We Pray Advent

Our Liturgies reflect this time of devout and expectant delight. Shades of purple, violet, and blue invite us to imagine the rising of a Holy Dawn upon all people. We gather in stillness to light the candles on our wreath. We are reminded that we enter into the eternity of God, a circle of love, as we chant the ancient "Veni Emmanuel!" and are once more assured of God's abundant mercy. Our response to the Hebrew Scripture is Psalm 25: "To you, O God, I lift up my soul: lift up my spirit to my Lord. To you I lift up my soul." We happily shout "Soon and very soon, Alleluia!" as we anticipate the Gospel. We are eager to hear the Good News. The Apostles' Creed centers us in history and faith. When gathering around the Lord's Table, remembering God's Covenant for us in Christ, we sing of this mystery, "We proclaim your Death O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again." We live in God's future among us today. Before we are sent forth as Advent People, we sing as a community united in Christ: "There is a longing in our hearts for God's justice, wisdom, and peace...hear our prayer and be ever near to us O God." We go then, journeying together, into the Dawn of a New Day.

December



LITURGY SCHEDULE

Masses are celebrated at First United Church due to ceiling problems at ICC

Saturday, December 1
11:00 AM Memorial Prayer Service at First United

4:00 PM Mass
For all the people

Sunday, December 2

9:00 AM Mass
Tom Doyle
(Req. Valerie Sutton)
Don Sutton
(Req. Valerie Sutton)
Fred English
(Req. Valerie Sutton)
Patti Turi
(Req. Family)

Monday, December 3

12:00 PM Mass
Eleanor Stempel
(Req. Tom & Ellen Scott)

Tuesday, December 4

9:45 Prayer Service at the Danforth

Wednesday, December 5

8:30 Mass at St. Patrick's

Friday, December 7

6:00 PM Vigil at St. Patrick's

Saturday, December 8

11:00 AM Mass

4:00 PM Mass
Joe Kennedy
(Req. Violet & Paul Bertholet)
Catherine Trimble
(Req. Dianne Harrington)
Ann Bornt
(Req. Michael & Mary Ellen Sanders)

Sunday, December 9

9:00 AM Mass
Manuel Custodio
(Req. Isabel Custodio)
Virginia Cuddihy
(Req. Cuddihy Family)
Fred Bouplon
(Req. Family)

SANTUARY LAMP
12/9/18-12/15/18

In honor of the Risen Christ
we remember: Fred Bouplon (Family)

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 2, 2018

Advent 2018

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel!" Our sanctuaries and our homes ring with these ancient words of invitation and welcome as we embrace the season of Advent. Quieting ourselves, much as the coming of winter stills and quiets the natural world, we seek to prepare a place for Christ to come again and to be born anew - for his coming or "advent" - in our hearts and in our world. We remember his entry into human life as a vulnerable newborn, and remembering the Easter Passover Mystery, we also affirm when Christ will return in glory at the fulfillment of salvation history.

The coming of the Messiah was a source of hope and anticipation in the life of the people of Israel. Frequently subjugated and often enslaved, they looked to the coming of the savior of the Jewish people as a horizon of promise. In these weeks of Advent, we hear many stories of the covenant that God has entered into with his chosen people.

We also hear of the expansion of God's call to the entire human family through his Son, Jesus Christ. We believe that the Messiah sent to save Israel is, in fact, the Savior of all people. All are called to come to God's holy mountain.

Human beings cannot live without hope. We are blessed - or cursed - with the ability to think about the future and to fear our actions to shaping it. So essential is this human life, that human beings cannot live without hope, without something to live for, without something to look forward to. To be without hope, to have nothing to live for, is to surrender to death in despair. But we can find all sorts of things to live for and we can hope for almost anything: for some measure of success or security or for the realization of some more or less modest ambition; for our children, that they might be saved from our mistakes and sufferings and find a better life than we have known; for a better world, throwing ourselves into politics or medicine or technology so that future generations might be better off. Not all these forms of hope are selfish; indeed, they have give dignity and purpose to the lives of countless generations.

But one of the reasons why we read the Hebrew Scriptures during Advent is to learn what to hope for. The people of the Old Testament had the courage to hope for big things: that the desert would be turned into fertile land; that their scattered and divided people would eventually be gathered again; that the blind would see, the deaf hear, the lame walk; that not only their own people, but all the peoples of the earth, would be united in the blessings of everlasting peace. Clearly, their hopes were no different from ours or from any human being's: lasting peace, tranquil lives, sufficiency of food, an end to suffering, pain and misery.

Thus we hope for the same things as the Jewish people, for their hopes are not yet realized. But we differ from them in two ways. First, the coming of Jesus in history, a fulfillment of God's promises, immeasurably confirms and strengthens our hope. Secondly, we differ because Jesus has revealed to us that God is not afar off, but is already in our midst. Hence the importance in the Advent liturgy of John the Baptist and of Mary: because they recognized the new situation, they serve as models for the Church in discerning the presence of our Savior in the world.

This invitation is not passive. We hear the voice of John the Baptist crying out from the wilderness, inviting all who would seek repentance to the waters of baptism. John does not sit silently, hoping that people will somehow find him, however much that might be to their benefit. His invitation to us is active. Similarly, Jesus reminds us to "be alert" for the signs that redemption is at hand. The story of the Virgin Mary, who trusted and said yes to bearing God into human form, reminds us that when we hear God calling, our response should be trust and affirmation.

It is ironic that in our age, what should be a season of stillness, listening, and waiting becomes a season of frenetic busyness. In the bustle of "making" Christmas - decorating, buying gifts, preparing food, and entertaining - we can find ourselves exhausted and depleted. With the focus on the expectations of community members for certain types of Advent experiences, we can lose track of the richness of this season for evangelization and welcome.

When our focus is harrowed, we may miss the challenge others face as they try to make connections in this season, particularly if they are far away from friends and family. We have to actively remember that for the grieving, the lonely, the unemployed - for the people struggling in any way - this season can be one of stress, not joy. They, too, need ways to meaningfully connect.

Advent is an ideal time to encourage each other to reach out and include people in the life of our parishes. This can be challenging for Catholics. While members may know of people who are rooted in the Catholic tradition, they may feel hesitant to invite them to join us at Mass, afraid that they'll be perceived as pushy or, even worse, holy rollers. We need to actively help people remember that we are inviting people to experience something wonderful and extraordinary when we bring them to the Eucharist: a relationship with a God so intimate that he chose to become one with the human family by taking on our deepest humanity. God's faith in us is worth believing and living. Advent gives us time to reflect, then hope more deeply, and live more fully.

Our Liturgies reflect this time of devout and expectant delight. Shades of purple, violet, and blue invite us to imagine the rising of a Holy Dawn upon all people. We gather in stillness to light the candles on our wreath. We are reminded that we enter into the eternity of God, a circle of love, as we chant the ancient "Veni Emmanuel" and are once more assured of God's abundant mercy. Our response to the Hebrew Scripture is Psalm 25: "To you, O God, I lift up my soul: lift up my spirit to my Lord. To you I lift up my soul." We happily shout "Soon and very soon, Alleluia" as we anticipate the Gospel. We are eager to hear the Good News. The Apostles' Creed centers us in history and faith. When gathering around for us the Lord's Table, remembering God's Covenant in Christ, we sing of this mystery, "We proclaim your Death O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again." We live in God's future among us today. Before we are sent forth as Advent People, we sing as a community united in Christ: "There is a longing in our hearts for God's justice, wisdom, and peace...hear our prayer and be ever near to us O God." We go then, journeying together, into the Dawn of a New Day.

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 6.



Dear Friends of SMA,

Our growth mindset from this past week is *I can be brave and step out of my comfort zone.*

The following students have received academic honors during the 1st marking period at St. Mary's Academy.

Merit (85-89):

Clara Adrion
Andrew Cowder
Michael Cruickshank
Kaylin Foster
Aiden Sawyer
Elijah Torres
Norman White

Honors (90-94):

Joshua Allen
Orion Breese

High Honors (95+):

Anthony deLaurentis
Amelia Pello
Jacob Sawyer
Margie White

High Honors with Distinction (all grades 95 and above):

David Allen
Arianna Keyes

Our holiday cabaret will take place on Saturday, December 15th. This is a fun, adult night out. Doors at SMA open at 6:00pm with the show beginning at 7:00pm. Entertaining us for the evening is West Side Drive. West Side Drive entertained our audience last year covering various decades and genres of music. There will be appetizers, cash bar, wine pull, silent auction, and live dessert auction. Tickets are just \$20.00/person. Please call SMA at 518-686-4314 to reserve your seats today! *We are looking for sponsors, silent auction donations, and donations of wine bottles for our wine pull. If you are interested, please call SMA by Friday, December 7th. Thank you in advance for your support!*

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

With many blessings,

-Mrs. Amanda Goyer-

Volunteer Bell Ringers at Tops Needed!

Saturdays & Sundays ♦ November 24 - December 23

All funds donated stay in the Hoosick area and are used for Emergency programs such as fires and floods. Sponsored by HACA.

Sign up at ICC Parish office - 67 Main St. or call 518-686-5064 .

Faith Formation

Classes continue this Sunday, December 2nd. We gather at Eucharist and then continue with class at SMA. Our next class is December 16th.



We made 120 placemats for our neighbors!

THERE IS AN URGENT NEED FOR:

soap, toothpaste and brushes, and feminine hygiene items.



Please bring any type of the following items:

tuna fish, macaroni and cheese, 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. (Dianne Hosterman, 686-5310).

Turkey Bowl Tournament



Congratulations to the College "Deans List" team and the Adult "Back Pain" team as co-champions of volleyball.

All teams played their giblets out!

**Christmas Basket Program
And the Giving Tree**

Immaculate Conception Parish is once again assisting with HACA's Christmas Basket Program and the Giving Tree. We are seeking donations of new, unwrapped pajamas for children in our community. The Giving Tree and a collection box will be in the back of the First United Church beginning Saturday, November 24th. There will be ornaments on the tree to take with information regarding gender/sizes of pajamas needed. There will also be collection boxes at Maggie's Beauty Shop, Tri State Area Federal Credit Union, and the Immaculate Conception Church Office. New pajamas in sizes Youth Small through Adult XL will be graciously accepted through Wednesday, December 12th. Anyone wishing to volunteer to help may contact Patrice Zedalis at mpzedalis@gmail.com.

.We Gather, We Pray, We Serve

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

Mass - Friday, December 7, 6:00 PM - St. Patrick's Church

Mass at First United Church; Communal Anointing of the sick immediately after Mass

Saturday, December 8, 11:00 AM

Hoosick Falls Christmas Tree lighting and carols

Saturday, December 8, 6:00 PM - Wood Park

Visit from St. Nicholas - patron saint of children

Sunday, December 9, after the 9:00 AM Mass

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Monday, December 10, 7:00 PM at First United Church

Tuesday, December 11, 6:00 PM at St. Patrick's Church

Advent Concert

Wednesday, December 12, 6:00 PM at SMA

Our children sing of Christ

Holiday Cabaret

Saturday, December 15, 7:00 PM at SMA

Communal Anointing of the sick

Sunday, December 16, after the 11:00 AM Mass at St. Patrick's Church

Community Band Concert

Wednesday, December 19, 7:30 PM at First United Church

Music and songs of the season

Blue Books

Readings and inspirations, available at the church/office

Oplatek - Ancient Eastern European Custom

Available at the church/office

Giving Tree

PJ's due December 12; Anyone interested in helping, contact Patrice Zedalis at mpzedalis@gmail.com.

Christmas Mass

Monday, December 24

2:00 PM - at St. Mary's Academy

4:00 PM - at St. Mary's Academy

6:30 PM - at St. Mary's Academy

6:00 PM - St. Patrick's Church, Cambridge

Tuesday, December 25

9:00 AM - First United Church

11:00 AM - St. Patrick's Church, Cambridge

Christmas Sign UP

Please sign up for our liturgical ministries for Christmas. Our parish needs you! Readers, ministers of Communion, singers, ushers, greeters, and altar servers are needed. Please sign up for one ministry so others may also serve.

Parish News

We are anticipating structural engineers analyzing Immaculate Conception Church ceiling, walls, and roof and the structural report from SMA. Our pastoral council and committees meet weekly.

~ Keep the faith ~

New Horizons of Faith Beatitudes of Christianity

Is Climate Change Real, and Why Should I Care?

Some people, looking to create confusion around the dangers of climate change, falsely substitute weather for climate. Weather is atmospheric conditions over a short period of time, and climate is how the atmosphere "behaves" over relatively long periods of time. Here are some basic facts to consider:

- ◆ In 1977, Exxon Senior Scientist James Black told management that, "There is general scientific agreement that the most likely manner in which mankind is influencing the global climate is through carbon dioxide release from the burning of fossil fuels."
- ◆ In 1989, NASA Director Dr. James Hansen testified to the U.S. Senate that global warming was already here and would get worse.
- ◆ In 2015, the world's scientists noted that the earth has so far warmed a little more than one degree Celsius above pre-industrial levels.
- ◆ Last week the Fourth U.S. National Climate Assessment concluded that, "*Climate change creates new risks and exacerbates existing vulnerabilities in communities across the United States, presenting growing challenges to human health and safety, quality of life, and the rate of economic growth.*"
- ◆ The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change reported that global warming, "*Is likely to reach 1.5C between 2030 and 2052 if it continues to increase at the current rate.*"
- ◆ If all the countries meet their Paris pledges to cut emissions it will only limit warming to 3.5 degrees C (about 6.3 degrees Fahrenheit) by the end of the century.
- ◆ Rising temperatures, extreme heat, drought, wildfires, and heavy downpours are expected to increasingly disrupt agricultural productivity in the United States. Expected increases in challenges to livestock health, declines in crop yields and quality, and changes in extreme events in the United States and abroad threaten rural livelihoods, sustainable food security, and price stability.
- ◆ The U.N. announced that the number of chronically malnourished people in the world had started to grow again, to a total of eight hundred and fifteen million, "*largely due to the proliferation of violent conflicts and climate-related shocks.*"

Prison Ministry Meeting

Sunday, December 9th at 10:30 AM in the Good Shepard Room in the parish rectory. Prison Ministry meditation: Jesus was a prisoner.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH
DECEMBER 1 & DECEMBER 2

This Week: December 1 & December 2, 2018

Lay Ministers: Team 1
Counters: Mike Shea & Gina Harrison
Next Week: Andrea White & Heather Hassett
(It is your responsibility to find a substitute if you are unable to serve.)

YOUR SACRIFICIAL OFFERINGS & ATTENDANCE

November 24 & November 25:

Offertory.....	\$3,343.00
Weekly E-Collection	\$60.00
Fuel Offering.....	\$495.00
Total.....	\$3,898.00

ATTENDANCE November 17, November 18:

4 PM.....140 9 AM.....125 Total: 265

WE ASK FOR YOUR PRAYERS FOR THE FOLLOWING:

Andy Beaty, Bud Barber, Kathy Shender, Marie Godfrey, Nick Waytkus, Anezia Said Clemons, Joe Spiak, Joseph Morrissey, Peter Kane, Mary McCaffrey, Mary Carter, David Martin, Rosemary O'Malley, Judy Quackenbush, Kay Monroe, Ken Button, Anne Eberle, Jane Davis, Sally Williams, Jesse Stevens, Deanna Aldrich, Noreen Stevens, Mary Wrubleski and all those who are ill or hurting. Those who have been on the prayer 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 else, please call Margaret O'Malley at 686-7835.

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.

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**

Our Sponsor of the Week is...

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P.O. Box 308, Hoosick Falls, NY 12090

518-686-7617

email dougsoil@verizon.net