Immaculate Conception Church

75 Church Street • Franklin, New Jersey 07416

December 18, 2022

Fourth Sunday of Advent

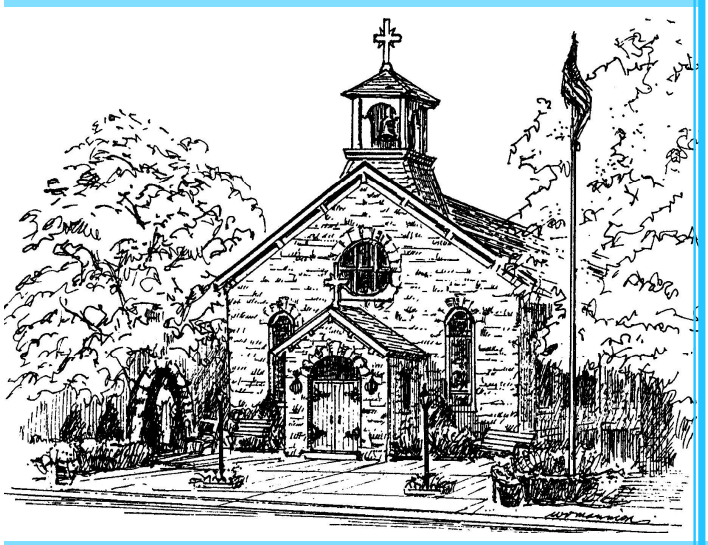
Mission Statement of Immaculate Conception Parish

We, the faith community of Immaculate Conception Parish in Franklin, New Jersey, commit ourselves to share our gifts and love to make the presence of God a reality in our lives by welcoming all to worship and serving those who are in need.

Welcome to Immaculate Conception Parish

The faith community of Immaculate Conception welcomes all visitors, parishioners, family and friends. We hope you find your visit warm and inviting as well as spiritually nourishing. We will keep all of you in our prayers and wish you God's Blessings.

New members may register by calling the Parish Office. If you are moving out of the parish or change your address, please notify the Parish Office.



Rev. Boguslaw Kobus, Pastor

Mr. Edward Boscia, Deacon

Mrs. Christine Benson—McGrath, Director of Religious Education

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Office Hours:

Parish Office: Mon through Wednesday 10:00 AM - 1 PM **Rectory Phone:**973-827-9575

Email:icchurch@ptd.net

Religious Education Office: Mon through Wed 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Religious Education Office Phone: 973-827-9501

Parish Website: **www.iccfranklin.org** **Fax:** 973-827-7375

Rev. Brown Elementary School: www.revbrownschool.org 973-729-9174

Pope John Middle School: www.popejohnms.org 973-729-9174

Pope John XXIII High School: www.popejohn.org 973-729-6125

Sunday Mass Schedule

Saturday: 5:00 PM

Sunday: 7:30 AM, 9:30 AM, 11:30 AM

Daily Masses

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday: 7:30 AM

Thursday no daily mass

Saturday: Mass, Novena & Benediction 8:00 AM

Holy Days of Obligation

Holy Day: 7:00 AM, 7:00 PM

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturdays: 4:00-4:30 PM or by appointment

And fifteen minutes before first Friday mass

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Every First Friday 5PM to 6PM

Baptisms

Parents must be registered parishoners and attend a prep class before scheduling baptism. Prep sessions held on first Tuesday of the month at 7:30PM. Please call to register.

Marriage Contact the parish one year in advance must be registered parishioners for at least 6 months.

Anointing of the Sick

Any time for the seriously ill.

Homebound Ministry

Visitations upon request

THE WEEK OF December 18, 2022

***SATURDAY* December 17**

8:00 am

✞ Michael & James Elekes Jr., Req by Mom & Dad

5:00 pm

✞ Ed & Bob Carroll, Req by Swiss Family

✞Deceased members of the Swiss & Mitchell Family

***SUNDAY* December 18**

7:30 am

✞ Thomas Como, Req by Pat Como

9:30 am

✞Michael Blahut, 25th Anniversary, Req by Wife Jeanne

✞ Dene Frieling, Req by Parents

11:30 am

✞Richard Heidt, Req by Aurora DiGangi

***MONDAY* December 19**

7:30 am

✞ Stephen J. Swiss, Birthday Remembrance, Req by Family

***TUESDAY* December 20**

7:30 am

✞James Elekes Jr., Req by Mom & Dad

***WEDNESDAY* December 21**

7:30 am

✞ Michael Elekes, Req by Mom & Dad

***THURSDAY* December 22 - No Mass**

***FRIDAY* December 23**

7:30 am

✞Edwin Carroll Jr., Req by Family

✞ George & Jane Sansone, Req by Bettyann

***SATURDAY* December 24 - Christmas Eve**

5:00 pm

✞John, Edna & John Jr. Zidek, ,Req by Steve & Gloria Marino

7:00 pm

✞Judy Sherlock, Req by Kevin, Bryan & Matthew

10:00 pm

✞Maciek Banach, Helena Dudziak, Greg Przybowski & Eugeniusz Banach, Req by Family

Next Week: December 25, 2022

7:30 am

✞ Joseph Donnelly, Birthday Remembrance, Req by Theresa Donnelly

9:30 am

✞Daniel D'Andrea Sr., Req by Virginia & Daniel D'Andrea Jr.

11:30 am

✞Deborah Allen, Req by Mom & Dad

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament every First Friday 5pm to 6pm

Winter Weather Alert
Inclement weather (ice or snow) weekday Masses will be cancelled.

Weekly Contributions

Last Week's Collection: $.*
(not available at time of publication)

2021-2022 Diocesan Assessment: $31,804
Collected to Date (Project Faith): $ 7,406. *
***Includes Online Giving**

Mass and Memorial Donations - Please Contact The Rectory

✞ A Holy Mass for the Deceased
♥ A Spiritual Bouquet Mass for the Living
Ex: Requests for healing, recovery or for God's Blessing for anniversaries, birthdays, or any other special occasion

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Novena and Benediction every Saturday Morning

Novena to the Blessed Virgin Mary has been a long standing devotion in Immaculate Conception Parish. Please consider attending 8am Mass on Saturday morning, followed by Novena, recitation of the Rosary, and Benediction.

Respect Life

"Human life must be respected and protected absolutely from the moment of conception. From the first moment of his existence, a human being must be recognized as having the rights of a person—among which is the inviolable right of every innocent being to life." Catechism of the Catholic church 2270

"Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you; before you were born I sanctified you." Jeremiah 1:5

Prayer for Advent

As we begin our Advent journey, guide us, dear God of Love. Help us to recognize the great gift You have given us in Jesus, and may we prepare well for His rebirth in our hearts.
On each day of this journey, may we move closer to Jesus, the Prince of Peace, the Light of the World. Shine the light of Your grace upon us that we may follow Him faithfully.

In all our preparations for Christmas, may we always remember that Jesus is the reason for this blessed season.

Thank You, loving God, for this time of joy and expectation. Walk with us and show us the way today and every day of Advent. Amen.

Welcome! Every member should be registered in the Parish, become active, financially support ***Immaculate Conception,*** and be known to Fr. Bogie. ***Letters of testimony for godparents and sponsors will not be given unless one is registered in the parish and children in the family are receiving religious education.***

When moving, please notify the parish office.

Bring your friend or someone dear to you to church… our parish community welcomes their presence

MEMORIAL DONATIONS FOR SANCTUARY LAMP, SANCTUARY FLOWERS AND ALTAR BREAD & WINE PLEASE CONTACT THE RECTORY

SANCTUARY LAMP, a reminder of the Divine Presence in the Eucharist, may be donated in memory of loved ones

SANCTUARY FLOWERS, are a beautiful way to remember a loved one or commemorate a special intention.

ALTAR BREAD & WINE, consecrated at each liturgy, may be donated in memory of a loved one or for a special intention.

Please consider a future gift of money, stock, real estate or other valuables to Immaculate Conception by remembering our parish in your will. Call the Rectory office for more information

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Transitions
Survivors of Suicide Loss Group

Open to Adult Family and Friends of Suicide Loss. Meets every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month. Via Zoom please call Sparta United Methodist Church for dial in information 973-729-7773.7pm—8:30pm Open & ongoing—Come as needed

No registration required. Additional information call 973-756-5108.

Bereavement Support Group

"The grieving process isn't always about the death of a loved one; it is ANY life changing event that we are faced with & must process.

Tara Gulotta, a Licenced Chaplain & a trained Bereavement Facilitator, is available on an "as needed" basis should anyone be in need of support. Her email address is ChaplainT@gmail.com & she can also be reached at 571-310-7849.

If anyone is interested in joining a virtual support group where one can share & listen in a safe environment, please email her & if enough people sign up, she will host a virtual support group on the 2nd Monday of December in the evening.

For the Lord wants to comfort & heal us, & we can find much comfort & healing in His Word, Amen"

PARISH NOTES

Please check the Parish website www.iccfranklin.org for the latest updates.

The Parish Office is staffed Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday from 10am to 1pm. It is requested that visitors call in advance, as office hours may change & only one person at a time will be admitted. Messages are checked periodically outside office hours.

Protocols for Liturgical Celebrations

1. The dispensation from the obligation to participate in Sunday Eucharist is lifted effective on the Vigil of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, June 5, 2021 for all of those in good health.
2. Those who are particularly vulnerable to the coronavirus who are not vaccinated, and especially those with one or several under lying medical conditions, may follow mass at home via livestream or television.
3. A person with a cough or fever of any kind should not take part in Mass in-person.
4. Occupancy restrictions for social distancing purposes are lifted.
5. Masks are not required for those who are vaccinated.
6. You are encouraged to bring hand sanitizer to use before the reception of Holy Communion.
7. Communion under both kinds for the faithful will not be resumed at this time. The Precious Blood in the chalice will not be made available to the faithful at this time.

Please Join Us For An Evening Of Fun With Family & Friends to Benefit Immaculate Conception Church

Italian Dinner, 50/50 & Tricky Tray

Friday, January 13th Franklin Fire Department Hall

Doors Open at 6pm - Dinner will be served at 7pm

(See attached flyer for details)

In preparation for this event we are asking for your help in donations of gift cards or items that can be used for the trays. Any donation will be greatly appreciated.

Any questions, please call : Robin at 201-317-6435

A Prayer for Peace

God of Peace and Justice, we pray for
those caught up in violence.
We implore you for peace.
Holy Spirit, Our Consolation,
comfort all those who fear.
Grant wisdom and discernment
to those in power.

Mary, Mother of us all,
cast your protecting veil around
all suffering peoples.
Turn all hearts back to your Son,
our only Savior and the
Prince of Peace.
Amen

TODAY'S READINGS
First Reading — You will be given this sign: the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel (Isaiah 7:10-14).
Psalm — The king of glory shall come in (Psalm 24).
Second Reading — God has called us to belong to Jesus Christ (Romans 1:1-7).
Gospel — The son born of Mary shall be called Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins. He shall be Emmanuel, "God is with us" (Matthew 1:18-24).

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday:	Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17; Lk 1:5-25
Tuesday:	Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-4ab, 5-6; Lk 1:26-38
Wednesday:	Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Lk 1:39-45
Thursday:	1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8abcd; Lk 1:46-56
Friday:	Mal 3:1-4, 23-34; Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-10, 14; Lk 1:57-66
Saturday:	2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29; Lk 1:67-79
Sunday:	Vigil: Is 62:1-5; Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27 29; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 [18-25]
	Night: Is 9:1-6; Ps 96:1-3, 11-13; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14
	Dawn: Is 62:11-12; Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12; Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20
	Day: Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1-6; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 [1-5, 9-14]

GETTING EVEN

The only ones you should try to get even with are those who have helped you.
—Anonymous

GOD WANTS TO BE ONE WITH US

What great lengths God will go to in loving and saving us! Think of the most outlandish circumstance you might conceive. That seems to be what the Lord is saying to Ahaz in today's first reading. "A virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel." Not only is the idea of a virgin conceiving beyond comprehension in Ahaz's time, so would the concept of God wanting to be with us be, as the name Emmanuel indicates. And yet, this is what we celebrate in the Incarnation—God wants so completely to be one with us that God came to be with us in a son born to a virgin, the Blessed Virgin Mary. There is more to this story than even these amazing and outlandish occurrences, however. God wants to be one with us so deeply that God partners with us to make God's presence known.
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SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday:	Fourth Sunday of Advent; Hanukkah begins
Wednesday:	St. Peter Canisius; Winter begins
Friday:	St. John of Kanty
Saturday:	The Vigil of Christmas (Christmas Eve)

OUR FASCINATING FAITH
***Las Posadas* (December 16–24)**

Of the many Latin American traditions for the celebration of Advent and Christmas, the tradition of *Las Posadas* seems to be the best known. It originated in the last half of the eighteenth century when the boisterous *Misas de Aguinaldo* were no longer celebrated in Mexico. To replace these Masses, the laity decided to celebrate in their own homes by taking what they had seen dramatized in the churches: the journey of the Galilean immigrants, Joseph and Mary of Nazareth, when they were looking for an inn (*posada*) in Bethlehem of Judea. Like the "O Antiphons" of the official liturgy, these *posadas* were celebrated on nine consecutive nights.

The journey of Joseph and Mary from inn to inn sadly continues every day in the fearful and tired steps taken by so many immigrants in this country. Like the Holy Family, Latin American families look for hospitality with the hope of finding a new life for their sons and daughters. Unfortunately, many citizens of the United States behave like the people of Bethlehem, preferring to close their door in the face of the immigrants rather than welcoming them. Perhaps that is the reason that the tradition of *Las Posadas* has taken on so much importance among the Latinos in the United States. We know firsthand what Joseph and Mary experienced two thousand years ago. We have to ask ourselves: When will the human heart change? When will we open the doors of our heart to our immigrant Lord?
—Friar Gilberto Cavazos-González, OFM, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

CHRISTMAS CHILDREN

It is good to be children sometimes, and never better than at Christmas.
—Charles Dickens

2022 Diocesan Ministries Appeal
"One Body In Christ"

With the year coming to an end, many people look to make a final year-end charitable contribution that has a significant impact. Please consider the Diocesan Ministries Appeal which helps so many of our brothers and sisters in Christ. In fact, tens of thousands of people are supported each year by the work of our Diocese with assistance from the Appeal. All of us can play a part in the Diocesan Ministries Appeal—as either a contributor to the cause or as a recipient of its mission—and all are blessed as a result. Please make the Diocesan Ministries Appeal a priority in your year-end philanthropy. Gifts can be made by check, credit cards, through gifts of securities or online at www.2022appeal.org. May God bless you for your generosity!

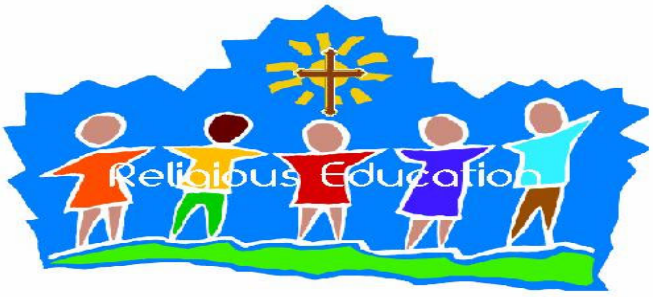
CATHOLIC IN RECOVERY

Has your faith walk with Jesus been impaired due to your or an-others behavior, compulsion or addiction? Do you have trouble letting go of vices that keep you from focusing on God? These actions inhibit our freedom, making us less able to follow God's will.
12 step Recovery is about addressing these addictions, compulsions and attachments that lead us away from our God given identity as His children.
If any of the above pertains to you, please join us. In-person anonymous meetings Monday evenings 6:30—7:30pm Our Lady Queen of Peace Church, 209 So, Route 206, Branchville.

Christmas Giving Tree

You can help by buying a present for child in need. Please take a tag off the giving tree. The tags must be put on the gift so it goes to the right child.
Presents can be returned to the church on the weekend of December 10th & 11th or December 17th & 18th.
Thank you for helping make a child's Christmas merry.

Franklin Senior Center
Lunch served every day at 11:30am
Donation Appreciated
For additional information, please call
973-827-2973



Parents meetings for students in Sacramental preparation programs will be scheduled after the New Year. Parents of students in grades 2 and 8 will be informed regarding the dates for the meetings. In the meantime, relevant information will be emailed to parents as needed.

Our Confirmation students will attend a retreat on March 11, at the Sacred Heart Retreat Center in Newton. The retreat will take place from 10am—4pm. Parents have been informed and will receive additional information at a later date. We look forward to sharing this special day with our students, as they prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Updates will be posted in the bulletin as needed. We extend a heartfelt thank you to all parishioners for supporting our Religious Education Program. May God continue to bless you always.

Prayer for Catholic Charities' Supporters, Staff and Service Recipients

Dear and Loving God,
You know all of the needs in our society today as so many are impacted by poverty, joblessness, hunger, homelessness and other issues. We thank you for the opportunity for Catholic Charities in Paterson to help those who reach out to us each day for food, shelter, clothing, emergency assistance and diverse needs. May all who come to us receive aid, support, compassion, and hope because they are your children and our sisters and brothers. May we always respond to their needs in whatever way we can to alleviate their problems and restore their dignity.
We are most grateful for our staff, volunteers, donors, and prayer partners who walk with Catholic Charities everyday as we carry out our Gospel imperative to serve the poorest and most vulnerable. Bring healing to our society and help us to stand in solidarity with those who cannot help themselves. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen

Senior Moment - "Imagining Mary"

The Gospel stories of the Virgin Birth and the Holy Family can seem 'remote' from our 2022 happenings. A bit of reflection on the Holy Family's reality adjusts the lens that we may better wrap our minds around a shared life experience. In this personalization, prayer life transforms from narrative to a tender conveying of thought to individuals who are present and interactively participating in our 'now'. In this, Mary is one of our dearest companions.

The Marian-centric 'Basilica Of The Annunciation' in Nazareth is an unmistakable departure from the many, many religious worship sites in Israel. One enters to encounter a plethora, almost to distraction, of styles and visual treatments in the interior. In the outdoor courtyard, walls of enclosure display lines of large, adjacent, vertical and notably stylized plaques of Mary in mediums of mosaic, reliefs, and paintings contributed by almost fifty countries!

The unique artistic interpretations undoubtedly speak to different tastes. While I mentally marveled at one of my favorites, another individual offhandedly mentioned its lack of personal appeal to them. 'Turns out the angular aluminum icon of conversation was coincidentally the submission of the United States!

We read at Mass of the foretelling of the Virgin Birth and its fruition in Mary's accepting her blest commission. My memories of some classic paintings included in the 1950's *St Joseph Missal* portrayals recall people in pristine garb with uplifted eyes, hands in pose of prayer, 'some donning companion halos. Though the renderings are beautiful, inspired moments frozen in time, I doubt hands of the era had endless hours for postures apart from necessary practical tasks, and it is in those active imaginings the persons come to life for me.

How many scraped knees, upset stomachs, hurt feelings, forgotten tasks, and other concerns of Jesus' childhood did Mary tend? Did Jesus challenge Mary in His 'terrible twos' phase? Were Mary's financial, health, relationship & other concerns akin to ours? How did Mary caution her Son about dangers? Were food, shoes and clothing consuming issues? Did she comfort Joseph in inevitable surprises/disappointments? How did she support Joseph's daily guidance? How did she reinforce her Child's living of the Scripture He studied (and fulfilled!)? How did she care for herself and balance family/social demands?

Have we internally progressed to sense Mary is truly at hand to interactively heed our most private prayers? Do we habitually lean upon her intercession so we may share and verbalize that confidence with integrity? As Mary comes to life through our reflection, might we Seniors speak of her to our younger ones, confidently suggesting her accessibility for even their most mundane concerns?

It's getting close! Just 7 days remain until we relive in spirit the Savior's birth!! Thank you Mary, for listening to us, and for continuing to say "Yes"!

Save the Date:

December 18—Youth Group Christmas Party
January 8—Youth Group— New Year / God vs Science
January 13 - Spaghetti Dinner

A Prayer for Peace in Ukraine

Heavenly Father, Your Son Taught us "Blessed are the Peacemakers for they shall be called Children of God." In this time of great worry, we fervently pray that Your Holy Spirit sustain all the people of Ukraine to be vigilant and dedicated to peace and justice.
Grant their leaders wisdom and prudence. Yet, may they also have the strength and perseverance to defend their land from all adversity. Help us all to live according to your Divine Will.
O God, our Father, in the days to come, we beseech you to comfort the suffering, heal the wounded, and accept the souls of the faithful departed into Your Heavenly Kingdom. We ask also that the Most Holy Mother of God extend her blessed mantle of protection over our Ukraine. Amen.

A Prayer for Healing in the World

O God, the need for healing in the world is great, and the difficulties our nations face are many. We ask for Your help and healing presence in all world concerns.
Guide our thoughts, words, and actions towards one another so that each nation might find peaceful, just and ethical solutions. Amen.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Meetings on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 6:30pm in the rectory conference room. Donations of wool are gratefully accepted by the Prayer Shawl Ministry.

Legion of Mary

Every Tuesday at 7pm in the rectory conference room

Prayers for those who are currently sick, in the hospital or undergoing surgery, or who have recently died are included in the General Intercessions offered at every weekend Mass. These names are usually is included once unless the person seriously ill for a number of weeks. After three weeks the name will be placed in the Bulletin and will still be prayed for at Mass, but referred to as "those listed in the bulletin".

Thomasin Benedetto, Baby Carter Chenard, Danielle Dagata Dionisio, Beatrice Douglas, Debbie & Kate Nejman, Leonard Riccardi, Marie Sohayda, Eileen Storms, Anne Marie Wronka, Leith Brennan, Rose O'Brien, Matthew Morrow, Taddeus & Pauline Sapek, Robert Jordan, Kelly Neal Freda

Please notify us when you have recovered from your illness. ***Hospitals*** *are bound by privacy laws and* ***can not release the names of their patients****. It is up to a* ***family member*** *to let us know if a parishioner is hospitalized or homebound.*

In the Military:
LCpl. Ian Cunningham
Kaitlyn Dembowski
1Lt. Jordan Lutz

PLEASE NOTE: DUE TO PRIVACY REGULATIONS, ONLY FAMILY MEMBERS MAY REQUEST NAMES TO BE LISTED.

Prayers for the Sick

Names included in the weekly Prayers of the Faithful are those who are currently hospitalized, undergoing surgery or who have recently died.

The ***parish office*** *should be notified by an* ***immediate family member*** *to include names in Prayers of the Faithful, and when names should be removed from the list of the sick.*

If you have loved ones to add to the sick or military lists, please contact the Parish Office (icchurch@ptd.net or 973-827-9575).

Parish Ministries Contact List

Religious Education & Youth Protection/ Safe Environment Coordinator	Christine Benson-McGrath	973-827-9501
Eucharistic Ministers	Christine Muller	973-827-9575
Lectors	Kim Vieira	973-545-2276
Liturgical Musician	Benjamin Yates	973-827-9575
Ushers	Ron Hoffman	973-827-0585
Hospitality	George & Katie Drossel	973-903-7735
Children's Liturgy	Barbara DeRenzo	973-209-4381
Evangelization	Frank Elmo	973-827-9575
Altar Servers	Kim Vieira	973-545-2276
Homebound Ministry	Fr. Bogie	973-827-9575
Legion of Mary	Brunilda Gillespie	908-619-0128
Bible Sharing	Fr. Bogie	973-827-9575
Prayer Shawl Ministry	Shirley Riccardi	973-827-9058
	Toni Dionisio	973-827-9575
Understanding of Faith	Fr. Bogie	973-827-9575
Youth Ministry	Kate Kostelnik	929-448-9590

The parish community of Immaculate Conception has an active, living liturgical life. Through the talents and skills of all those involved in various liturgical ministries, our experiences of worship provide prayerful and meaningful signs of God's presence. If you are interested in becoming a part of a Ministry at Immaculate Conception, please contact Fr. Bogie at the Rectory Office.

COVER SHEET

CHURCH NAME AND ADDRESS:
911128: Immaculate Conception Church
75 Church Street, Franklin, New Jersey 07416

TELEPHONE:
973-827-9575

CONTACT PERSON:
Carol Giacchi

NUMBER OF PAGES:
8

DATE PUBLICATION:
December 18, 2022

TRANSMISSION TIME: WEDNESDAY 9:45

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS: Masses have resumed, with limited attendees Please send 200 bulletins. Thank You.