



Immaculate Conception Catholic Church

1303 E. Reelfoot Ave. Union City, TN 38261

www.icuctn.org

731-885-0963

icuctnmaster@gmail.com

Immaculate Conception Parish Staff:

Office Hours:

8:30am—3:00pm

Pastor: Fr. Carl Gregorich
 Secretary/Bookkeeper: Isabel Avalos
 Religious Education Director: Teresa Vallee
 Communications/ Technology: Lillie Vallee
 Custodial: Philip Scott

Choir Rehearsal: Wednesdays 5pm
 Knights of Columbus: 3rd Degree: Jason Batchlor
 4th Degree: David Piazza

Ladies Guild: Maria Reedy
 Meal Ministry: Brenda Piazza
 Rosary Prayer Group: Sundays 8:30am Lillie Vallee

Flocknote: flocknote.com/find
 FORMED.org: Sign up as a parishioner
 & use the church zip code
 facebook.com/icuctn

Facebook: facebook.com/icuctn
 Bulletin Deadline: Noon on Monday



Saturday, December 17: 5:00pm
 People of the Parish

Sunday, December 18: 9:00am
 Repose of the Soul of Vince Ray
(Kathy Jo Roberts)

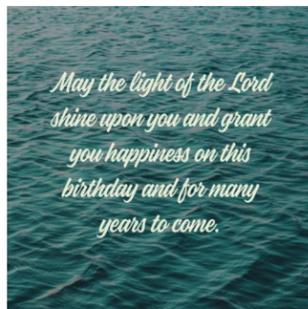
Monday, December 19: 8:00am
 Repose of the Soul of Charlotte Toon
(Carl Toon)

Wednesday, December 21: 12:00pm
 Repose of the Soul of Charlotte Toon
(Carl Toon)

Thursday, December 22: 12:00 pm
 Repose of the Soul of Luois Jose
(BT & Winine Logan)

Friday, December 23: 8:00am
 Repose of the Soul of Vince Ray
(The Atwill Family)

*Wishing all of you a Happy and
 BLESSED
 December Birthday!*



Parish Offertory
 December 11, 2022
 Weekly Budget: \$5,400



Regular Offertory: \$ 3,096
 Online Giving: \$ 333
 (\$ 1,971)
 Immaculate Conception: \$ 525
 Our Lady of Guadalupe: \$390
 Religious Retirement: \$ 760
 Parish Family Envelopes used: 74
Thank you for your generosity & support!



Online Giving



**Sign up on our website at www.icuctn.org & click
 Online Giving to setup your account.**

**Regístrate en nuestro sitio web en www.icuctn.org y
 haga clic en En línea Dando para configurar su cuenta.**



Names on the prayer list for family and friends will be removed on monthly basis. They will not be put back on until requested. Please notify church office to remove or add a person or email: icuctnmaster@gmail.com

Parishioners:

Health Issues: Lupita Berner, Anabel Gracia, Mary & Gerald Harris, James Judge, Deborah Lattus, Martha Lattus, Wy Lattus, Leticia Maldonado, Barbara Pituch, Tom Pituch, Lorena Ramirez
Homebound: Hank Gill

Friends & Family:

Health Issues: Nancy Atwill, Janet Adams, Carson Bates, Michael Burns, Brentley Carr, Pat Cooley, Helen Cuvelier, Andrew Delke, Katrina Dugger, Jose Garcia, Rusty Gibson, Judy Guillory, Stevie Gossett, Danny Haskins, Alex Harvel, Gail Holub, Mayci Hogg, Jon Loehr, Doug Martinek SR., Ofelia Martinez, Jack Mckeown, Kenneth Northam, Greg Roach, Joan Thompson, Lynn Taylor
Assisted Living/Rehab: Fr. Robert Ponticello



Tuesday, December 20—Monday, January 2:
 Church office is closed.

Thursday, December 22— Chimes for Charities
 Sorting Items at 1pm (Obion Country Bus Garage in Troy)

Friday, December 23— Chimes for Charities Basket
 Packing & Loading Buses at 11am
 (Obion Country Bus Garage in Troy)

Saturday, December 24— Chimes for Charities
 Delivering Baskets at 8am (Meet the bus at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church)
 Christmas Eve Vigil Mass 4pm
 Hour of Adoration 10pm
 Christmas Eve Vigil Mass 11pm

Sunday, December 25:
 Christmas Day Mass 9am

Saturday, December 31:
 Holy Day of Obligation Mary, the Mother of God Vigil Mass 4pm

Sunday, January 1:
 Holy Day of Obligation Mary, the Mother of God Vigil Mass 4pm 9am

Holy Sacraments Offered

Baptism: Arrange by appointment *three (3) months* before the desired date of baptism with the Office.
First Eucharist: Arrangements made with the Religious Education Director.
Confirmation: Arrangements made with the Religious Education Director.
Confession: Saturdays 4:15pm—4:45pm
Matrimony: Arrangements must be made *six (6) months* before the wedding date with the Parish Office.
Marriage Blessing: Contact the parish Priest.
Marriage Annulment: Contact the parish Priest.
Anointing of the Sick: Contact the Parish Office.
Holy Orders: Contact the Parish Priest.

Sagrados Sacramentos Ofrecidos

Bautismo: Organizarlo por medio de una cita con la oficina parroquial *tres (3) meses antes* de la fecha deseada de bautismo.
Primera Comunión: Arreglos hechos con el Director de Educación Religiosa.
Confirmación: Arreglos hechos con el Director de Educación Religiosa.
Confesión: Sábados 4:15pm—4:45pm
Matrimonio: Los arreglos deben hacerse *seis (6) meses antes* de la fecha de la boda con la Oficina Parroquial.
Bendición Matrimonial: Comuníquese con el párroco.
Anulación de Matrimonio: Póngase en contacto con el párroco.
Unción de los Enfermos: Comuníquese con la Oficina Parroquial.
Órdenes Sagradas: Póngase en contacto con el párroco.

Altar Linens

Month of December: Beverly Canale

We are in need of more people to help with the cleaning the Altar Linens. There are about 10 ladies of the parish who are very faithful in helping with this ministry and would be willing to help teach you how to clean the linens. Please call the office if you feel the Holy Spirit guiding you to help with this ministry.

Immaculate Conception Catholic Church Assumption Memorial Garden Cemetery

Columbarium Niches for Cremains \$1,600.00 per Niche
 contact parish office (731) 885-0963 Niche Face Plate
 Engraving Compliments of Edmaiston-Mosley Funeral Home (731) 885-1033 Curtis Monument Company
 (731) 352-5769 & The Wall Family

What Are the O Antiphons?

D.D. EMMONS

On the First Sunday of Advent, Christians everywhere make a collective and noticeable turn toward Christmas, toward the coming birth of Jesus.

Throughout the next four weeks our day-to-day routines give way to divine preparation and joyful anticipation; the world is bathed in lights, complete strangers exchange “Merry Christmas” and mankind eagerly awaits the Christ Child.

The ageless Gospels that are read during Mass reflect on John the Baptist, the Annunciation, the Visitation, the Nativity. The clergy don purple vestments, the giving tree suddenly appears, and we are inspired by the seasonal hymns reminding us that a great event is about to happen. Past the halfway point of Advent the beautiful O Antiphons are introduced into the daily prayer life of the Church. These mostly ancient and thought-provoking verses fit the season perfectly, but why are they called O Antiphons?

What Is an Antiphon?

To say there are a variety of definitions regarding antiphons would be an understatement. One that mostly fits how they are used today was written over 170 years ago by Blessed John Henry Newman in his book “Tracts for the Times, Vol. III” (J.G.F. & J. Rivington, London, & J.H. Parker, Oxford, 1840, pp. 22-23): “The Antiphons or Anthems are sentences preceding and succeeding the Separate Psalms and Songs, and are ordinarily verses taken from the particular compositions to which they are attached. They seem to answer the purpose of calling attention to what is coming, of interpreting it, or of pointing out the particular part of it which is intended to bear on Service of the day.... They are repeated at the end, as if to fix the impression or the lesson intended.”

Cardinal Newman continues, “Antiphons are not, strictly speaking, Prayers, but sentences applied to the particular purpose of meditation, thanksgiving & ...” So an antiphon is a verse that gives emphasis to what follows, such as a prayer, psalm, Scripture or canticle. Canticles, a sacred song or chant, are part of the daily prayers of the Church and often preceded by an antiphon.

The “Chief Hours”

Besides Sunday worship, Christians have long prayed at set times every day. In the tradition of the Jewish synagogue, the apostles and first Christians praised God at least three times daily. To the extent they could avoid the Roman persecutions, they would pray together. Prior to the Second Vatican Council, such daily prayers were called the Divine Office, but following the council these prayer periods became known as the Liturgy of the Hours. The council’s Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy (*Sancrosanctum Concilium*) encourages the laity to “recite the divine office [Liturgy of the Hours], either with the priests, or among themselves, or even individually” (No. 100). The “chief hours” of the day, according to this same council document are morning prayer (lauds) and evening prayer (vespers) (see No. 89).

While the laity are encouraged to participate either individually or collectively, congregating to pray the hours together is today mostly found, and obligatory, in religious communities. The content of these prayer times include hymns, canticles, antiphons, psalms and Scripture readings. At evening prayer, the Canticle of Mary, the Magnificat (see Luke 1:46-55), is recited. Before and after the canticle, a short verse, a solemn antiphon, is read from Scripture or a psalm. This antiphon varies each day and ties the canticle to the season of the year, a feast and to a particular reading. In “The Liturgical Year, Advent” (Newman Press, Westminster Md., 1951, p. 509), Dom Prosper Gueranger writes, “These antiphons are sung at the Magnificat to show us that the Savior whom we expect is come to us by Mary.”

The Special Antiphons

Beginning Dec. 17 of each Advent season, and for the next seven days, a special antiphon known as an O Antiphon is read before the Magnificat during evening prayer or before the gospel at Mass. Sometimes called the Greater Antiphons, or the O’s of Advent (because they begin with that exclamation), the O Antiphons differ from the daily antiphons because they herald the coming birth of Christ. Originally written in Latin around the seventh or eighth centuries, these special antiphons are verses extracted from the Old Testament prophets — namely, Isaiah — and express the longing for the coming of the Christ. In fact, the word “come” is used in every O Antiphon.

Each of the seven antiphons begins by addressing Jesus using an Old Testament title for the Messiah. These seven names or titles, all from the Book of Isaiah, are:

Dec. 17, *O’ Sapientia* (meaning O Wisdom), from Isaiah 11:2-3.

Dec. 18, *O’ Adonai* (O Lord or Ruler), 11:4-5 and 33:22.

Dec. 19, *O’ Radix* (O Root of Jesse), 11:1.

Dec. 20, *O’ Clavis* (O Key of David), 22:22.

Dec. 21, *O’ Oriens* (O Radiant Dawn), 9:1.

Dec. 22, *O’ Rex Gentium* (O King of the Nations), 2:4.

Dec. 23, *O’ Emmanuel* (O God with Us), 7:14.

It is widely pointed out that if you take the first letter of each Latin name and reverse the order — that is, begin with E from Emmanuel, then Rex Gentium and so on you will spell the word EROCRAS, which in Latin means “I shall come tomorrow.”

Many families add the Greater Antiphons to their prayers during Advent. These beautiful antiphons are like a drum roll growing to a crescendo as the seven days bring us closer to the Christmas miracle of God made flesh, born as a babe and, with few exceptions, mostly unnoticed by mankind. Each of the seven Greater Antiphons are also sung or recited as the Alleluia verse (or antiphon) before the Gospel at daily Mass Dec. 17-23.

Sometime before the 12th century, the exact date and author being unknown, selected verses from the seven antiphons were compiled into the hymn we today call “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.” During the Middle Ages this hymn was an important teaching and worship aid to a society that was largely illiterate and had few Bibles. In the 19th century, the Latin version of the hymn was translated into English by an Anglican priest named John Neale. He called his original translation “Draw Neigh, Draw Neigh, Emmanuel,” but in 1854 he renamed the song, “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel,” which, given its history, is believed to be among the oldest of all the Christmas hymns.

O Antiphons of Advent

The O Antiphons are recited prior to the Magnificat during evening prayer (vespers) from Dec. 17 through Dec. 23. Each antiphon is addressed to God using a noble title for the Messiah, each antiphon petitions Him to come save His people, and each is tied to Mary because she is the vessel through which the Savior will be born.

Dec. 17: “O Wisdom, O holy Word of God, you govern all creation with your strong yet tender care. Come and show your people the way to salvation.”

Dec. 18: “O sacred Lord of ancient Israel, who showed yourself to Moses in the burning bush, who gave him the holy law on Sinai mountain: come, stretch out your mighty hand to set us free.”

Dec. 19: “O Flower of Jesse’s stem, you have been raised up as a sign for all peoples; kings stand silent in your presence; the nations bow down in worship before you. Come, let nothing keep you from coming to our aid.”

Dec. 20: “O Key of David, O royal Power of Israel controlling at your will the gate of heaven: come, break down the prison walls of death for those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death; and lead your captive people into freedom.”

Dec. 21: “O Radiant Dawn, splendor of eternal light, sun of justice: come, shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death.”

Dec. 22: “O King of all the nations, the only joy of every human heart; O Keystone of the mighty arch of man, come, and save the creature you fashioned from the dust.”

Dec. 23: “O Emmanuel, king and lawgiver, desire of the nations, Savior of all people, come and set us free, Lord our God.”

— From “*Christian Prayer: The Liturgy of the Hours*,” Catholic Book Publishing Co., 1976





We are all called to be the hands and feet of Christ to our community. Here are some opportunities to do that.

Thursday, December 22— Sorting Items at 1pm (Obion Country Bus Garage in Troy)

Friday, December 23— Basket Packing & Loading Buses at 11am
(Obion Country Bus Garage in Troy)

Saturday, December 24— Delivering Baskets at 8am (Meet the bus at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church)

Two ways to honor or remember your loved ones.

We all need prayers and this is a great way to help each other spiritually.



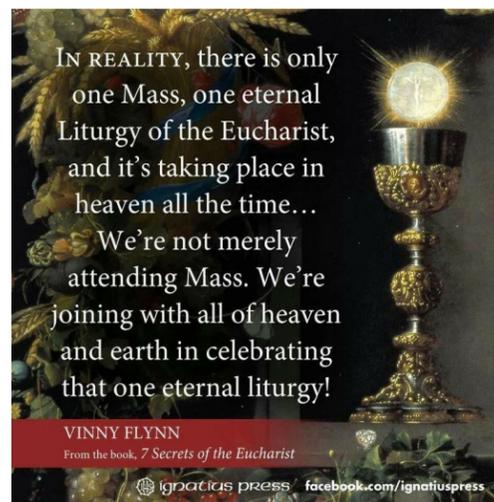
We will be taking donations for our loved ones to be remembered or honored with the altar candles.

Each month the altar candles will be in honor or in memory of your loved one for the month. We will have 11 months open for those who want to make a donation of \$50 for the altar candles.

January will be in memory of the deceased members of Immaculate Conception Church.



The Mass Intention book for 2023 is here and there are several openings throughout the year. If you have a person you want prayers prayed for, those living or deceased, now is the time to book your Mass Intention for that person.



Saturday, December 24: Christmas Vigil Mass 4:00pm

Holy Hour of Adoration with Music by the Choir 10:00pm

Christmas Eve Vigil Mass begins at 11:00pm

Sunday, December 25: Christmas Day Mass 9:00am

The church has a calendar for each family to take home for the year 2023!

¡La iglesia tiene un calendario para que cada familia se lo lleve a casa para el año 2023!



NEW OR GENTLY USED BLANKETS AND BRAND NEW SOCKS & UNDERWEAR COLLECTION IS UNTIL CHRISTMAS WEEKEND.

BOXES WILL BE IN THE NARTHEX.

ALL DONATIONS WILL BE GIVEN REELFOOT RURAL MINISTRIES

Holy Day of Obligation

Mary, the Mother of God

Vigil Mass Saturday, December 31 at 4pm

Sunday, Mass Sunday, January 1 at 9am

