CHURCH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

35 MOUNTAIN AVENUE • SOMERVILLE, NEW JERSEY 08876

Rev. Msgr. Joseph G. Celano
Pastor

Rev. Joseph Illés
Parochial Vicar

Rev. Mhonchan Ezung
Parochial Vicar

Deacon Frank J. Quinn

Deacon John R. Czekaj

Deacon Reynaldo Lopez

† The Nativity of the Lord — December 25, 2022 †

Welcome to New Households!

New households moving into the Parish are asked to register at the Parish Office in person during office hours or online at our website: **www.immaculateconception.org**. You must be registered to obtain Godparent/Sponsor Certificates for Baptism or Confirmation. Please contact the Parish Center for further details.

Parish Center and Hours
Phone: 908-725-1112 **Fax:** 908-725-6269
Email: Office@icsomerville.org
Web: www.immaculateconception.org
Monday - Friday: 9:00AM - 5:00PM

Office of Children's Faith Formation
908-725-1112 Ext. 1119 or 1128 (Bilingual Secretary)
Religious Formation - Grades: K-8
Mondays: 4:00 - 5:15PM / 6:15 - 7:30PM
Wednesdays: 4:00 - 5:15PM / 6:15 - 7:30PM

Schools

Immaculate Conception School
908-725-6516 / www.icsschool.org
Mrs. Katie Parsells, MS '03 *Principal*
Mrs. Kelly Seccamanie, MA, PSA, *Vice Principal*

Immaculata High School
908-722-0200 / www.immaculatahighschool.org
Mr. Edward Webber, M.Ed'99, *Principal*

Like us on Facebook
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FAITH DIRECT Parish eGiving — Sign Up Today!

Mass Schedule

Saturday
5:00PM *(in English)*

Sunday
7:30, 9:00, 11:00AM *(in English)*
1:00PM *(in Spanish)*

Note: The 9:00AM (English) and 1:00PM (Spanish) Sunday Masses are livestreamed on our website.

Holy Day Eve *(Vigil)*
7:00PM

Holy Day
6:30, 8:00AM, 12:10PM (*English*)
7:00PM *(Bilingual)*

Daily Masses (In English)
6:30 & 8:00AM ***Note:*** September to June the schedule changes as follows: Friday, 6:30 & 8:30AM. ***Note:*** The 8:00AM Daily Masses are livestreamed on our website Mon-Thurs. and **6:30AM** on Fridays.

Confessions

Saturday 3:30 - 4:30PM in English & Spanish

† Liturgy and Prayer this Week †

Parish Mission

Immaculate Conception is a parish of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Metuchen, New Jersey. We seek to live the gospel as faithful Disciples of Jesus Christ. As Stewards of our God given gifts we proclaim the good news of salvation. Empowered by the Holy Spirit we are commissioned as Apostles to transform all things in Christ.

† Mass Intentions †

Monday, December 26, St. Stephen

8:00AM FLORENCE & JAMES LONGO

Tuesday, December 27, St. John the Evangelist

6:30AM INTENTIONS OF MARA DOMIDER
8:00AM CAROLE KAVANAUGH

Wednesday, December 28, The Holy Innocents

6:30AM MADALENE HUYNH
8:00AM CAROLE ANN KAVANAUGH

Thursday, December 29, St. Thomas Becket

6:30AM JOHNNY CHAN
8:30AM NICOLETTA FAZAN

Friday, December 30, The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

6:30AM HECTOR JOSE VASQUEZ TORO
8:30AM ANNE BLAIR

Saturday, December 31, St. Sylvester I

6:30AM COLLEEN JIJAK
8:00AM LORETTA CAVANAGH
5:00PM THE PEOPLE OF THE PARISH

Sunday, January 1, The Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God

7:30AM MICHAEL ZIEGLER
9:00AM THOMAS JUBAK, JR.
11:00AM ROBERT GERTSEN
1:00PM FOR THE SOULS IN PURGATORY

† Scripture Readings For This Week †

December 25, 2022
THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD
For daily readings please go to: www.usccb.org and click on daily readings

Today's Readings: : Is 52:7-10; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 or Jn 1:1-5, 9-14

Monday: Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-59; Mt 10:17-22

Tuesday: 1 Jn 1:1-4; Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Wednesday: 1 Jn 1:5—2:2; Mt 2:13-18

Thursday: 1 Jn 2:3-11; Lk 2:22-35

Friday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14; Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

Saturday: 1 Jn 2:18-21; Jn 1:1-18

† Prayer and Devotion †

Rosary For Life

The Rosary For Life is recited on the first Saturday of the month following the 8:00AM Mass in the **CHAPEL.** All are welcome.

Rosary

On Thursdays at 2:00PM, a Post Pandemic Rosary for the sick is recited in the **CHAPEL**. All are welcome. Updates about any other Rosary gatherings will be posted in future bulletins and/or Flocknote messages.

Novena and Evening Prayer

The Rosary is recited on Mondays at 7:00PM in the **CHAPEL** followed by the Perpetual Novena Devotion in honor of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal and Evening Prayer at 7:30PM.

Adoration & Exposition

Tues. 8:30AM - 3:00PM; Fri. 9:00AM - 3:00PM - **CHAPEL**

† Stewardship, A Way of Life. Tithing, God's Plan For Giving. †

Our next Food Collection is Jan. 21st and Jan. 22nd

Our next Penny Collection is Jan. 7th and Jan. 8th

Somerville Columbiettes "Shake the Can" Program

The Somerville Columbiettes would like to thank the parishioners of Immaculate Conception Church for their generous donations to our "Pennies from Heaven" Shake a Can that was held December 3-4, 2022. *Through your generous support we collected $607.74 for our seminarians and postulants!!*

The "Pennies from Heaven" Program is run by the NJ State Council of Columbiettes and 100% of all proceeds are distributed to seminarians and postulants in New Jersey to help defray the cost of their studies. As one of our patronesses, St. Therese the Little Flower, once said *"What matters in life is not great deeds, but great love"*.

We thank you for your support of those that have dedicated their lives and love to God.

† Sunday Mass Worship Guides †

Sunday Mass worship guides will now be available for you to download and view on your mobile phone or tablet. Simply scan the QR Code. A PDF version is also available for you to download and print from our website. The worship guide contains the Sunday readings, hymns and responses. Open the QR Code reader on your phone. Hold your device over the QR Code (to the right) so that it's clearly visible within your smartphone's screen. The phone automatically scans the code. Your smartphone reads the code and navigates to the intended destination.

SCAN ME

† Faith Direct †

Through Faith Direct you are able to make all of your contributions to Immaculate Conception via automatic payment from your checking account or credit card - just as you do now with a mortgage, household bills and other monthly payments. This is a great way to simplify your giving - and it's the most cost effective, environmentally-friendly way for us to receive your gifts. Faith Direct gives you a statement of your giving each year that can be used for income taxes. To enroll online, use code NJ630 by going to www.faithdirect.net or open the QR Code reader on your cellphone. Hold your device over the QR Code (to the right) so that it's clearly visible within your smartphone's screen. The phone automatically scans the code. Your smartphone reads the code and navigates to the intended destination.

NJ630

† Flocknote †

PARISHIONERS KEEP INFORMED!

For messages from our Pastor and/or the Diocese for special events/occasions, you can sign-up or register for Flocknote by going to the Church website: ***www.immaculateconception.org*** *and click on the sub-heading* ***ABOUT,*** *and go to Flocknote, or you can choose to scan the QR Code (to the* right) on your cell-phone screen.

† From Our Pastor †

Christmas 2022

Fifty-four years ago today, Apollo 8 was in orbit around the moon. It was the first time in history that human beings could look back at our planet from an entirely new vantage point and see it for what it is, a "*pale blue dot*" afloat in the infinite ocean of space. The Apollo 8 astronauts chose that moment to turn their cameras back on the earth, rising over the lunar horizon, and began to read from the Book of Genesis, "*In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth…*" I was 9 years old then, and I can still see that grainy black and white image of the earth on our TV set and hear the crackling voices of the astronauts reading those words of Scripture. Years later, the astronomer Carl Sagan would challenge us to keep that "*pale blue dot*" in mind when he said, *"Our planet is a lonely speck in the great enveloping cosmic dark. In our obscurity, in all this vastness, there is no hint that help will come from elsewhere to save us from ourselves."*

Viewed from this perspective, Sagan is right; we are nothing but a lonely speck of blue in the infinite cosmic dark. The place we call home is but a rock orbiting a star, one of billions of stars that make up this galaxy, one galaxy among billions in the known universe. Set against this background, who are we, really? What possible reason can our existence have, really, in the infinite darkness?

Neither science nor religion can prove or disprove that which by its very definition exists apart from creation, is not subject to its laws, yet grounds the very existence of all that is. All either can do is demonstrate why belief, or unbelief, is rational in the face of such an incomprehensible mystery. What conclusions we draw from belief or unbelief is up to us. But consider this: if there is nothing, then there is no absolute meaning to our existence save what we give it for the short time we are here. In the end, that meaning will die with us. But if there is *something*, *Someone* whose Being cannot be proven in a mathematical equation or spliced apart in a particle collider, a reality that both appeals to reason and yet remains beyond reason's ability to comprehend, then our very existence is more than a remarkable cosmic accident. We are "on purpose".

The essential message of the Church is good news, and here is where it begins: God does not come from "elsewhere" to save us. He comes from *within* our very humanity, making Himself little and of no account, born in darkness and in utter obscurity. And how could it be otherwise? How are we who are nothing to know Him unless *He shows Himself to us* in our nothingness? And how are we to know we are more than we know unless He, in turn, fills our nothingness with Himself and, by doing so, shows *us* who we really *are*?

We may be a "pale blue dot" in the darkness, but the God who, in the beginning made the heavens and the earth, has come to us. In our search for meaning, in our search for God, it is God who has undertaken the longest part of the journey.

In the end, to celebrate what the Church celebrates today is to encounter the awesome mystery of the Coming of God in the Flesh – the Coming of God in our littleness and obscurity. That is why Christmas is more than the commemoration of a birth. Christmas is a *wedding feast*, the marriage of the human with the divine. Christmas is the Bridegroom searching for His bride, the Lover looking for His beloved. In all our restless seeking and unfulfilled longings, we discover in the Child of Bethlehem that we are the sought after, we are the Bride, we are the beloved, because, here on this pale blue dot, the third rock from the sun, the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth, and He is among us still.

Msgr. Joseph A. Quinn

† To Our Parish Family †

For unto us a Savior is born

Glory to God in the highest!

My precious Lord, Jesus,
I adore You with profound love and rejoice in the celebration of Your birth.
Your love for us is unfathomable, it is glorious transforming, awe-inspiring, and deeply personal.

You chose to come and dwell among us, being born into poverty, rejection and humility. Yet Your Mother knew whom she bore, Her heart was filled with tender love as she adored her Child and her God.

Help me, dear Lord to come to love You with the heart of Your Mother. Invite me to adore You with St. Joseph and the poor shepherds.

Reveal to me the glorious power of Your birth and change my life on account of this perfect gift of Yourself.

I love You, dear Lord Jesus. Help me to love You with all my heart. Newborn Savior of the World, I trust in You.

Mother Mary and St. Joseph, Pray for me and for all.

Amen.

Wishing all of our Parish Family

a Blessed Christmas Season filled

with joy, hope and peace with the coming of our newborn Savior.

† Immaculate Conception Church †

Saturday 6:30am Mass

Every pastor faces the challenge of constructing and then periodically reviewing the parish Mass schedule to ensure that it serves the community's needs without over-extending the clergy or surpassing the limits canon law sets on how many Masses a priest can celebrate on any one day. Saturdays tend to be full days in the parish. Besides the current Saturday Mass schedule, we also celebrate funerals, baptisms, weddings, and hear confessions. Of course, there are times during the year when one of our parish priests is away for retreat and rest, which can create a schedule difficult for the other priests to maintain.

After discussing our current schedule with the clergy and parish staff, we determined that one Mass on Saturday morning is sufficient for our needs. Therefore, **beginning on Saturday, January 7, 2023, Mass will be celebrated at 8:00am only on Saturdays. The 6:30am Mass will continue to be celebrated Mondays through Fridays.**

While I understand that some find the 6:30am Mass on Saturdays convenient, please know that I weighed this matter carefully and prayerfully with these other factors to determine what best serves our parish's needs. Please make a note of this important schedule change. Thank you.
Msgr. Celano

Christmas Giving Tree 2022 – Special Thank You

The birth of Jesus at Christmas, is the greatest time of the year. It is a time to celebrate and share love with others. This year's **"Operation St. Nick – Giving Tree"** yielded an overwhelming response of gifts, gift cards, and prayers that were delivered to numerous individuals and families in need from Appalachia to our local area with the help of Catholic Charities, Immaculata, Somerset County Social Services, Pregnancy Aid, and other local charities. The joy that these gifts brought has been overwhelming. Thank you to all our parishioners for your abundant generosity. The spirit of giving is alive and well at Immaculate Conception Parish…May God bless you and your family this Christmas Season!

The Christmas Season Schedule 2022

Immaculate Conception, Somerville

Friday, December 30th, (The Feast of the Holy Family)

Friday: 6:30 and 8:30AM in English

Sunday, January 1st, (Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God)

Saturday, 12/31, 5:00PM Vigil Mass

Sunday: 7:30am, 9:00AM, 11:00AM in English and 1:00PM in Spanish

Sunday, January 8th, (Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord)

Saturday, 1/7, 5:00PM Vigil Mass,

Sunday: 7:30, 9:00 and 11:00AM in English and 1:00PM in Spanish

Monday, January 9th, (The Baptism of the Lord)

Friday: 6:30 and 8:00AM in English

Schedule of Confessions

Saturdays from 3:30-4:30PM

www.immaculateconception.org

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- Catechesis Certification will soon be available!

Register at FORMED.org

Parishioners, enter code: e3312

FORMED

† March for Life †

Join the March for Life Bus Trip from Immaculate Conception Church!

Why we March: Because we believe that unborn life must be protected plus a million more reasons. Visit www.marchforlife.org for more information.

When: Friday, Jan 20th, 2022. Attend the 6:30AM Mass and then board the bus by 7AM. After the March we will head back to NJ and will return to the church parking lot by approximately 10PM (depending on traffic).

Where: Our bus will drop us off by the National Mall in Washington DC where we will hear speakers and then March for Life! Wear comfortable shoes (or boots depending on the weather- we suggest checking weather.com).

Food: Pack a brown bag lunch to eat on the way down to Washington DC. We will also stop at a rest stop along the way to DC where people can purchase refreshments. After the March we will enjoy a dinner buffet. We will collect $15 for the buffet on the bus (per person).

Suggested offering to off-set the price of bus transportation: $30 per person. Family price is $50. If you need financial assistance please contact the parish.

Name_____

Address_____

Phone Number_____

Email address_____

If you would like to sponsor a rider or contribute financially to this bus trip, go onto Faith Direct or mail a check. For folks who want to register themselves and/or family you may also use Faith Direct to pay online or mail a check to:

Immaculate Conception Church, c/o March for Life Trip

35 Mountain Ave, Somerville NJ 08876

Deadline to register is Monday January 9th.

Questions? Contact the Parish office (908) 725-1112 or email Office@icsomerville.org.

† Childrens Faith Formation †

The Sacrament of Confirmation

March 7th, 2023 at 4:30PM

The Most Reverend James F. Checchio, JCD, MBA will preside at the celebration of Mass with the Sacrament of Confirmation at our parish on Tuesday March 7, 2023 at 4:30PM.

The Office of Children's Faith Formation would like to wish all of our families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

This is a reminder there is no CFF class on December 26 & 28, 2022 and January 2 & 4, 2023. Classes will resume on Monday January 9, 2023 and Wednesday January 11, 2023.

Karen A. Bohler, CFF Director

PRAYER CARDS

Prayer cards will be placed in baskets at the exit doors of the Church. In these baskets are the names of students preparing to receive the Sacraments of Confirmation and students preparing to receive the Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Communion in 2023. These names are the students that attend Immaculate Conception School and the Children's Faith Formation Program.

Please take a prayer card as you enter or leave Church and pray for these students.

† Pro Life Corner †

The angel said to them, *"Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a Savior has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord."* (Luke 2:10-11). This proclamation, which is for "all" of us, should fill us with overwhelming joy. God, the Creator of the universe, loves us so much that He has taken on our human nature to offer Himself as our salvation. He comes to serve and save us all. Christmas has changed everything for humanity. Christmas teaches us that God, by becoming one of us, has infused each human life with profound dignity and sacredness. Christ the Savior becomes man for the benefit of **all** who share human nature, including the child in the womb. We are given the example of Mary and Joseph in how we are to value human life, especially human life at its earliest stages. Mary gives us the example of a young mother with an "unplanned" pregnancy who proved that by following God's will in her life, she could overcome her apparent impossible circumstances. Joseph gives us the example of a man who does not abandon a young mother even though his culture would say he has no obligation to this child and mother. And they both give us the example of parents who risk everything to keep their child safe. Mary's "Yes" to God in accepting to become the mother of Jesus, and Joseph's acceptance of God's will that he protect Mary and the Child Jesus, transformed the future for all humanity. As Mary and Joseph cherished and protected Jesus from the time of His conception, we too are to realize that all children in the womb are made in the image and likeness of God, and are to be cherished and protected as was Jesus. The good news of Christmas is applied to all. Jesus has come for all - for you personally, for the just conceived boy or girl living in their mother's womb, for the elderly, for those forgotten by others, for those living in poverty, for those gravely ill - He excludes nobody. By becoming man, God gives us a resounding affirmation of the goodness and value of each human life. It is up to us to spread the joy and message of Christmas to all we come in contact with and move our world to embrace the Culture of Life. Welcome the Savior this Christmas with gratitude and a realization of what God has done for you and all of humanity. As Jesus has taught us, let each of us be an advocate for the Culture of Life and live the Christmas message bearing witness to the sanctity of all human life.

Presented by Kevin Dugan

† Childrens Liturgy of the Word †

Children's Liturgy of the Word is at the 11:00AM Mass. Children in grades Kindergarten to Grade 3 are welcome to join. Children will be called forward to listen to God's Word after the opening prayer at the beginning of Mass to hear the readings and special homily at their own level. The children will return to the congregation during the Offertory. There will be Children's Liturgy of the Word on every Sunday in January, **EXCEPT 1/29/23.**

† Immaculata †

The Nerds

The Spartan Parent Club proudly presents "The Nerds" in concert. Please join us as we rock the house to support our Spartans! Grab your friends, get your tickets, and come party with us on Friday, January 27, 2023. Doors open at 7:00PM at the Somerville Elks Lodge #1068, 375 Union Ave, Bridgewater, NJ.

† Social Ministry †

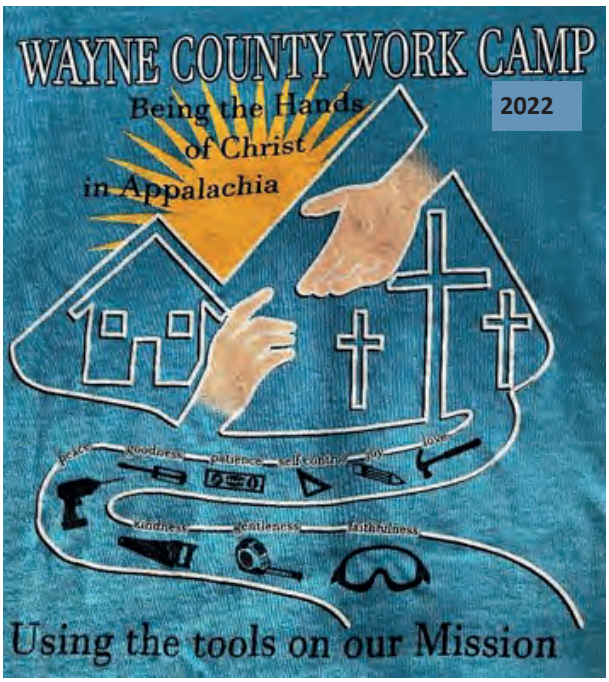
Seeking Appalachia Volunteers

Do you have an interest in helping to build and repair houses in Dunlow, West Virginia?

Male and female chaperones are needed to support Immaculata High School's summer trip.

Volunteers needed to form a parish-based group of workers. Interested?

For more information, contact Mike Reno at 908-392-7392 or michaelreno10@gmail.com



Parish Center Holiday Hours:

The Parish Center is closed and will reopen on Tuesday, 12/27. The Parish Center will be closed on Friday,12/30 and will reopen Tuesday,1/3 at 9AM.

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS)

"Beloved: When the kindness and generous love of God our savior appeared, not because of any righteous deeds we had done but because of his mercy, He saved us…"

This was the message of St. Paul to Titus.

In the joy of this season, as we recall the most significant event in human history, we might tend to forget, that the Father sent Jesus to save us and give us new life in Him. May we pause for a moment, not to visit the scene of Bethlehem, but consider what was our need and the Father's loving response, and our need today for His saving grace.

We were separated from God, but at this moment He bent down from heaven, sending us Jesus as our Savior. Today we are invited to respond to the Father's gift in gratitude and accept the greatest Christmas gift ever. Bring the meaning of this day to someone else.

HIS WORD TODAY

BY REV. WILLIAM J. REILLY

A FRESH PERSPECTIVE ON
THE SUNDAY READINGS

KID'S KORNER

Gospel Today

The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) / John 1:1-18

John describes how the Word came into the world in the form of Jesus. All those who accept Jesus become children of God by sharing in Jesus' love. No one has seen God, but through Jesus, God was revealed to us.

Year A

Merry Christmas

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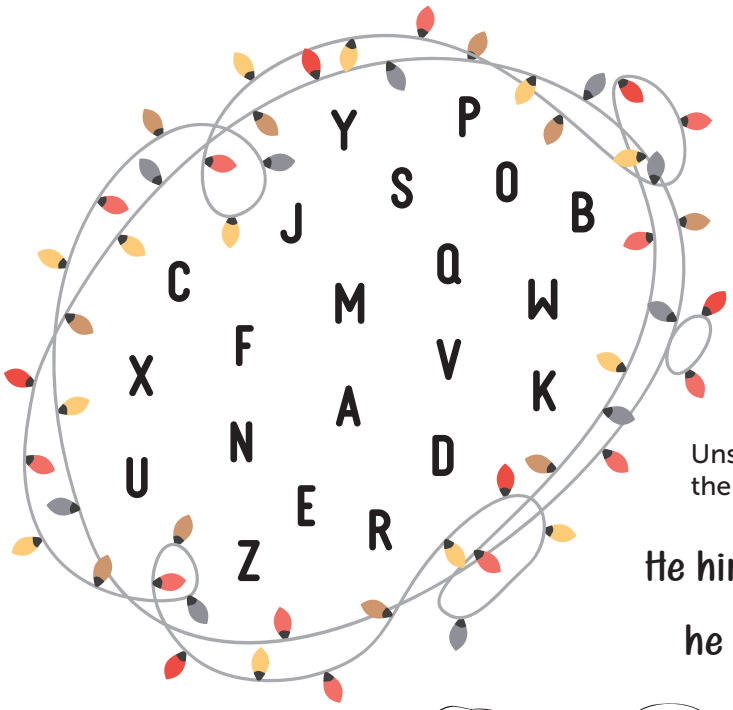

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

THE TRUE LIGHT

Find and write the missing letters (from A to Z) not found within the lights.

Unscramble the letters and fill in the blanks to complete the sentence below (the same word is used twice).

He himself was not the __ __ __ __ __ ;

he came only as a witness

to the __ __ __ __ __ .

–JOHN 1:8

COLOR PAGE

answer = light (2x)

† Parish Directory †

CHURCH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

35 Mountain Avenue, Somerville, New Jersey 08876
Tel: 908-725-1112 Fax: 908-725-6269
www.immaculateconception.org
Diocese of Metuchen website: *www.diometuchen.org*

† The Parish Clergy †

Rev. Msgr. Joseph Celano, Pastor
E-Mail: JCelano@icsomerville.org Ext. **1121**

Rev. Joseph Illés, Parochial Vicar
E-Mail: JIllés@icsomerville.org Ext. **1127**

Rev. Mhonchan Ezung, Parochial Vicar
E-Mail: Mezung@icsomerville.org Ext. **1122**

Frank J. Quinn, Deacon

John R. Czekaj, Deacon

Reynaldo Lopez, Deacon
E-Mail: RLopez@icsomerville.org

† Parish Trustees †

Mrs. Susan Odenthal

Mr. Timothy Florin

Please contact the Parish Office at 908-725-1112
E-Mail: Office@icsomerville.org

† The Parish Office †

Carol Januse, Parish Secretary
E-Mail: cjanuse@icsomerville.org; Ext. **1116**

Jo Anne Peppe, Business Manager
E-Mail: jpeppe@icsomerville.org; 908-895-1120

Rich Rau, Director of Advancement
E-Mail: rrau@immaculatahighschool.org
908-722-0200 Ext. **1223**

Tara Smith, Director of Communications and Marketing
E-Mail: tsmith@icsomerville.org
908-725-1112 Ext. **1126**

Stacey Geary, Advancement Associate for Alumni Relations,
908-722-0200 Ext. **1222**
E-Mail: sgeary@immaculatahighschool.org

Beverly Gaffney, Parish Bookkeeper
E-Mail: bgaffney@ics41mtn.org; Ext. **1118**

Milton Ayala, Director, Maintenance; Ext. **1110**
E-Mail: maintenance@ics41mtn.org

Jessica Leguizamon, Bilingual Youth Ministry, Ext. **1124**
E-Mail: ICC@boldym.com

† Office of Children's Faith Formation †

Karen Bohler, Director, Children's Faith Formation
E-Mail: kbohler@icsomerville.org; Ext. **1119**

Jenny Santiago, CFF Bilingual Secretary
E-Mail: jsantiago@icsomerville.org; Ext. **1128**

† Office of Liturgy & Sacred Music †

Rev. Msgr. Joseph Celano, Pastor
Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist & Lector Formation
E-Mail: JCelano@icsomerville.org Ext. **1121**

Gary Gavula, Director, Sacred Music
E-Mail: ggavula@icsomerville.org; Ext**. 1133**

† Office of New Evangelization †

Patti Jannuzzi, Director, New Evangelization/ Stewardship/ Adult Faith Formation
E-Mail: pjannuzzi@icsomerville.org

Mirna Gonzalez, Coordinator of Discipleship 908-725-1112

Joan Kopil, Lazarus Ministry; Contact the Parish Center at 908-725-1112 or Office@icsomerville.org

† Parish Ministries †

Contact the Parish Center for more information or for any questions about these ministries at 908-725-1112 or E-mail: Office@icsomerville.org

- **Appalachian Relief Services**
  Elizabeth Ministry - Amberle Gilroy
- **HOME-Housing Outreach Multipath Empowerment-** shelters homeless
- **Monthly Food Collection**
- **Monthly Penny Collection for SHIP**
- **Pro-Life Outreach**
- **Samaritan Homeless Interim Program (SHIP)**
  SHIP's Galley - Serving or preparing meals
  SHIP's Mobile Kitchen - Serving meals
  Parish Contact: Tom Lardner
- **St. Zita Ministry -** Anna Ferreira
- **Project Linus -** Lynette Klar
- **MAT25 Ministry** -Anne Lurski
- **St. Joseph's Workers -** Tom Lardner

† Liturgia y Oración de la Semana †

La Natividad del Señor

Lecturas del Domingo

Primera Lectura: Isaias 52:7-10

Isaías se regocija de que Dios traiga a su pueblo exilado de regreso a Jerusalén. Él llama a su pueblo a alegrarse porque Dios restaurará Jerusalén.

Segunda Lectura: Hebreos 1:1-6

San Pablo explica a los hebreos de que a pesar de que Dios ha hablado por medio de los profetas, la gente no siempre puede comprender el mensaje. Ahora Dios nos ha hablado enviando a Jesús, Su hijo, quien es un reflejo de la Gloria de Dios y perdona nuestros pecados.

Evangelio: San Juan 1:1-18

San Juan describe cómo La Palabra vino al mundo en la forma de Jesús. Todos aquellos quienes aceptan a Jesús se convierten en hijos de Dios al compartir el amor de Jesús. Nadia ha visto a Dios, pero a través de Jesús, Dios se nos ha revelado.

Intención de la Santa Misa

25 de diciembre 2022

Yolanda Guerrero-
1er anniversario de Fallecida

Mensaje Espiritual

UNA FRESCA PERSPECTIVA DE LAS LECTURAS DOMINICALES

SU PALABRA HOY

Por el Reverendo William J. Reilly
Iglesia Católica El Santísimo Nombre, Garfield, NJ

"Amados hermanos, cuando se manifestó la bondad de Dios, nuestro Salvador, y Su amor a los hombres, no fue por las obras de justicia que habíamos realizado, sino solamente S misericordia, Él nos salvo…"

Este fue el mensaje de San Pablo a Tito.

En el júbilo de la estación, cuando recordamos el evento más significativo de la historia humana, puede que tendamos a olvidar que el Padre envió a Jesús a salvarnos y a darnos una nueva vida en Él. Ojalá que podamos pararnos un momento, no para visitar la escena de Belén, sino para considerar cuál era nuestra necesidad, la respuesta amorosa del Padre, y nuestra necesidad hoy por Su gracia salvadora.

Estábamos separados de Dios, pero en este momento El se inclinó desde el Cielo, y nos envió a Jesús como nuestro Salvador. Hoy estamos invitados a responder al don del Padre en gratitud y aceptación del regalo de Navidad más grande que nunca. Llévele Él significado de este día a alguien más.

Lecturas del Día

Para lecturas diarias, visite: *www.usccb.org* haga click en Lecturas diarias

domingo: Is 52:7-10; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 o 1:1-5, 9-14

lunes: Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-59; Mt 10:17-22

martes: 1 Jn 1:1-4; Jn 20:1a, 2-8

miércoles: 1 Jn 1:5—2:2; Mt 2:13-18

jueves: 1 Jn 2:3-11; Lk 2:22-35

viernes: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14; Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

sábado: 1 Jn 2:18-21; Jn 1:1-18

† De Nuestro Pastor †

Navidad 2022

Hace cincuenta y cuatro años, el Apolo 8 estaba en órbita alrededor de la luna. Fue la primera vez en la historia que los seres humanos pudieron mirar hacia atrás a nuestro planeta desde un punto de vista completamente nuevo y verlo tal como es, un *"punto azul pálido"* flotando en el océano infinito del espacio. Los astronautas del Apolo 8 eligieron ese momento para volver sus cámaras a la tierra, elevándose sobre el horizonte lunar, y comenzaron a leer del Libro del Génesis: "En el principio, Dios creó los cielos y la tierra…". Tenía 9 años. entonces, y todavía puedo ver esa imagen granulada en blanco y negro de la tierra en nuestra televisión y escuchar las voces crepitantes de los astronautas leyendo esas palabras de las Escrituras. Años más tarde, el astrónomo Carl Sagan nos desafiaría a tener en cuenta ese *"punto azul pálido*" cuando dijo*: "Nuestro planeta es una mota solitaria en la gran oscuridad cósmica envolvente. En nuestra oscuridad, en toda esta inmensidad, no hay ningún indicio de que vendrá ayuda de otra parte para salvarnos de nosotros mismos".*

Visto desde esta perspectiva, Sagan tiene razón; no somos más que una solitaria mota azul en la infinita oscuridad cósmica. El lugar al que llamamos hogar no es más que una roca que orbita alrededor de una estrella, una de las miles de millones de estrellas que componen esta galaxia, una galaxia entre miles de millones en el universo conocido. En este contexto, ¿quiénes somos realmente? ¿Qué razón posible puede tener nuestra existencia, realmente, en la oscuridad infinita?

Ni la ciencia ni la religión pueden probar o refutar lo que, por su misma definición, existe aparte de la creación, no está sujeto a sus leyes, pero fundamenta la existencia misma de todo lo que es. Todo lo que cualquiera puede hacer es demostrar por qué la creencia, o la incredulidad, es racional frente a un misterio tan incomprensible. Las conclusiones que saquemos de creer o no creer depende de nosotros. Pero considera esto: si no hay nada, entonces no hay un significado absoluto para nuestra existencia excepto el que la damos durante el corto tiempo que estamos aquí. Al final, ese significado morirá con nosotros. Pero si hay *algo, Alguien* cuyo Ser no puede probarse en una ecuación matemática o dividirse en un colisionador de partículas, una realidad que apela a la razón, y, sin embargo, permanece más allá de la capacidad de comprensión de la razón, entonces nuestra existencia misma es más que un notable accidente cósmico. Estamos "a propósito".

El mensaje esencial de la Iglesia es la buena noticia, y aquí es donde comienza: Dios no viene de "otro lugar" para salvarnos. Él viene *de dentro* de nuestra misma humanidad, haciéndose pequeño y sin importancia, nacido en la oscuridad y en la oscuridad total. ¿Y cómo podría ser de otra manera? ¿Cómo vamos a conocerle nosotros, que no somos nada, a menos que *Él se nos muestre* en nuestra nada? ¿Y cómo vamos a saber que somos más de lo que sabemos a menos que Él, a su vez, llene nuestra nada Consigo Mismo y, al hacerlo, *nos* muestre quiénes realmente?

Puede que seamos un "punto azul pálido" en la oscuridad, pero el Dios que, en el principio, hizo los cielos y la tierra, ha venido a nosotros. En nuestra búsqueda de sentido, en nuestra búsqueda de Dios, es Dios quien ha emprendido la parte más larga del camino.

Al final, celebrar lo que la Iglesia celebra hoy es encontrar el misterio imponente de la Venida de Dios en la Carne, la Venida de Dios en nuestra pequeñez y oscuridad. Por eso la Navidad es más que la conmemoración de un nacimiento. La Navidad es una *fiesta de bodas*, el matrimonio de lo humano con lo divino. La Navidad es el Novio que busca a Su novia, el Amante que busca a Su amada. En toda nuestra búsqueda incansable y anhelos insatisfechos, descubrimos en el Niño de Belén que somos los buscados, somos la Esposa, somos los amados, porque aquí en este punto azul pálido, la tercera roca del sol, *La Palabra* se hizo carne y habitó entre nosotros, lleno de gracia y de verdad, y Él todavía está entre nosotros.

Abbé. Joseph A. Juliano

Calendario de Navidad 2022

Inmaculada Concepción, Somerville

Viernes 30 de Diciembre (La Fiesta de la Sagrada Familia)

6:30AM y 8:30AM (en Inglés)

Domingo 1 de Enero (Solemnidad de María, Madre de Dios) & Domingo 8 de Enero (La Epifanía del Señor)

Sábado: 5:00 PM Misa de Vigilia,

Domingo: 7:30 AM, 9:00 AM, 11:00 AM en Inglés y 1:00 PM en Español

Lunes 9 de Enero (El Bautismo del Señor).

Lunes: 6:30AM y 8:00AM (en Inglés)

Horario de Confesiones

Sábados: ***3:30-4:30pm***

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Árbol de Navidad 2022 – Agradecimiento especial

El nacimiento de Jesús en Navidad, es la mejor época del año. Es un momento para celebrar y compartir el amor con los demás. La "Operación St. Nick - Giving Tree" de este año arrojó una respuesta abrumadora de obsequios, tarjetas de regalo y oraciones que se entregaron a numerosas personas y familias necesitadas desde Appalachia hasta nuestra área local con la ayuda de Caridades Católicas, Immaculata, Condado de Somerset Servicios Sociales, Ayuda durante el Embarazo y otras organizaciones benéficas locales. La alegría que trajeron estos regalos ha sido abrumadora. Gracias a todos nuestros feligreses por su abundante generosidad. El espíritu de dar está vivo y bien en la Parroquia de la Inmaculada Concepción...
¡Que Dios te bendiga a ti y a tu familia en esta temporada navideña!

† Nuestra Parroquia †

Sábado 6:30 am Misa

Cada párroco enfrenta el desafío de construir y luego revisar periódicamente el horario de misas de la parroquia para asegurarse de que satisfaga las necesidades de la comunidad sin sobrecargar al clero o sobrepasar los límites que establece la ley canónica sobre cuántas misas puede celebrar un sacerdote en un día. Los sábados suelen ser días completos en la parroquia. Además del horario actual de misas de los sábados, también celebramos funerales, bautizos, bodas y escuchamos confesiones. Por supuesto, hay momentos durante el año en que uno de nuestros párrocos está ausente para un retiro y descanso, lo que puede crear un horario difícil de mantener para los otros sacerdotes.

Después de discutir nuestro horario actual con el clero y el personal de la parroquia, determinamos que una misa el sábado por la mañana es suficiente para nuestras necesidades. Por lo tanto, a partir del sábado 7 de enero de 2023, la Misa se celebrará a las 8:00 am solo los sábados. La misa de las 6:30 am se seguirá celebrando de lunes a viernes. Si bien entiendo que algunos encuentran conveniente la Misa de las 6:30 a. m. los sábados, sepan que sopesé este asunto cuidadosamente y en oración con estos otros factores para determinar qué es lo que mejor satisface las necesidades de nuestra parroquia. Tome nota de este importante cambio de horario. Gracias.

¡Gloria a Dios en lo más alto!

Mi precioso Señor, Jesús, te adoro con profundo amor y me regocijo en la celebración de tu nacimiento. Tu amor por nosotros es insondable, es glorioso, transformador, inspirador y profundamente personal.
Elegiste venir a habitar entre nosotros, naciendo en la pobreza, el rechazo y la humildad. Sin embargo, tu madre sabía a quién daría a luz, Su corazón estaba lleno de tierno amor mientras adoraba a su Hijo y a su Dios.
Ayúdame, amado Señor, a llegar a amarte con el corazón de Tu Madre. Invítame a adorarte con San José y los pastores pobres.
Revélame el poder glorioso de Tu nacimiento y cambia mi vida a causa de este don perfecto de Ti mismo.
Te amo, amado Señor Jesús. Ayúdame a amarte con todo mi corazón. Recién nacido Salvador del Mundo, en Ti confío.
Madre María y San José, rueguen por mí y por todos.
Amén.

Días festivos del centro parroquial
Horas de Oficina :

El Centro Parroquial estará cerrado el viernes 23/12 y reabrirá el martes 27/12. El Centro Parroquial estará cerrado el viernes 30/12 y reabrirá el martes 3/1 a las 9:00AM.

† Rincón Pro-Vida †

El ángel les dijo: "*No teman, porque he aquí os anuncio una buena noticia de gran gozo que será para todo el pueblo. Porque hoy en la ciudad de David les ha nacido un Salvador que es el Mesías y Señor.*" (Lucas 2:10-11). Este anuncio, que es para "todos", debe llenarnos de una inmensa alegría. Dios, el Creador del universo, nos ama tanto que tomó nuestra naturaleza humana para ofrecerse como nuestra salvación. Él viene a servir y salvarnos a todos. La Navidad lo ha cambiado todo para la humanidad. La Navidad nos enseña que Dios, al hacerse uno de nosotros, ha infundido a cada vida humana una profunda dignidad y sacralidad. Cristo Salvador se hace hombre en beneficio de **todos** los que comparten la naturaleza humana, incluido el niño en el vientre materno. Se nos da el ejemplo de María y José en cuanto a cómo debemos valorar la vida humana, especialmente la vida humana en sus etapas más tempranas. María nos da el ejemplo de una joven madre con un embarazo "no planificado" que demostró que, siguiendo la voluntad de Dios en su vida, podía superar sus circunstancias aparentemente imposibles. Joseph nos da el ejemplo de un hombre que no abandona a una madre joven a pesar de que su cultura diría que no tiene ninguna obligación con este niño y madre. Y ambos nos dan el ejemplo de los padres que arriesgan todo para mantener a su hijo a salvo. El "Sí" de María a Dios al aceptar ser madre de Jesús, y la aceptación de José de la voluntad de Dios de proteger a María y al Niño Jesús, transformaron el futuro de toda la humanidad. Así como María y José cuidaron y protegieron a Jesús desde el momento de su concepción, nosotros también debemos darnos cuenta de que todos los niños en el vientre están hechos a imagen y semejanza de Dios, y deben ser queridos y protegidos como lo fue Jesús. La buena noticia de la Navidad se aplica a todos. Jesús ha venido para todos - para ti personalmente, para el niño o niña recién concebido que vive en el vientre de su madre, para los ancianos, para los olvidados de los demás, para los que viven en la pobreza, para los que están gravemente enfermos - Él no excluye a nadie. Al hacerse hombre, Dios nos da una afirmación rotunda de la bondad y el valor de cada vida humana. Depende de nosotros difundir la alegría y el mensaje de Navidad a todos con los que entramos en contacto y mover nuestro mundo para abrazar la Cultura de la Vida. Recibe al Salvador esta Navidad con gratitud y con la comprensión de lo que Dios ha hecho por ti y por toda la humanidad. Como Jesús nos ha enseñado, seamos cada uno de nosotros promotores de la Cultura de la Vida y vivamos el mensaje de Navidad dando testimonio de la santidad de toda vida humana.

Presentado por Kevin Dugan

O come let us adore Him

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