



CHURCH OF THE
**IMMACULATE
CONCEPTION**

35 MOUNTAIN AVE. | SOMERVILLE, NEW JERSEY 08876

FIFTH
SUNDAY
OF EASTER
MAY 3, 2026

IMMACULATECONCEPTION.ORG | PHONE: 908-725-1112 | EMAIL: OFFICE@ICSOMERVILLE.ORG



FOLLOW ALONG



@icsomerville

Welcome to Immaculate Conception

"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."

Whether this is your first Mass with us or you are a lifelong parishioner, we are so glad you are here. We hope Immaculate Conception can be a place for you to call home. If you are new here, check us out online at immaculateconception.org or visit the parish office. Please do not hesitate to reach out and introduce yourself. We'd love to meet you!

Readings for the Week

Sunday, May 3

Acts of the Apostles 6:1-7; 1 Peter 2:4-9; John 14:1-12

Monday, May 4

Acts of the Apostles 14:5-18; John 14:21-26

Tuesday, May 5

Acts of the Apostles 14:19-28; John 14:27-31a

Wednesday, May 6

Acts of the Apostles 15:1-6; John 15:1-8

Thursday, May 7

Acts of the Apostles 15:7-21; John 15:9-11

Friday, May 8

Acts of the Apostles 15:22-31; John 15:12-17

Saturday, May 9

Acts of the Apostles 16:1-10; John 15:18-21

Mass Intentions

Sanctuary Lamp, Church

Dorothy Kotalic

Sunday, May 3

Fifth Sunday of Easter

7:30 am Katie Reid

9:00 am Deacon Arnold DeMarco

11:00 am Anne Nee

1:00 pm Linda Gonzalez D. Garcia

Monday, May 4

6:30 am Souls in Purgatory

8:00 am Salvatore Galandra

Tuesday, May 5

6:30 am The Christy Family

8:00 am Francisco Gomez

Wednesday, May 6

6:30 am Jacqueline Amatucci

8:00 am Quirino Acebes

Thursday, May 7

6:30 am Lisa Santa Lucia

8:00 am Sherry Kosinski &

Flora Kosinski

Friday, May 8

6:30 am Malcolm Forrester

8:30 am Charles & Ruth Delayo

10:00 am Intentions of Donna Pizzigoni & Craig Major

Saturday, May 9

8:00 am Catherine Melewski

5:00 pm People of the Parish

Sunday, May 10

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Mother's Day

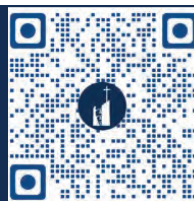
7:30 am All Mothers, Living and Deceased

9:00 am All Mothers, Living and Deceased

11:00 am All Mothers, Living and Deceased

1:00 pm All Mothers, Living and Deceased

Scan the QR code or visit
immaculateconception.org/masses
to view this week's worship guide.



From the Pastor

A Reflection from the Fourth Sunday of Easter

In his 2013 homily, Pope Francis caught international attention by famously asking priests to “take on the smell of the sheep”. What he meant by this is simple; it is the task of the shepherd – the bishop and the pastor – to draw close to the people entrusted to their care, to accompany them in the joys and sorrows of their lives, to put aside their own needs and ambitions and, as Francis continued, “to put his own skin and heart on the line” for the sake of Christ and the Church.

But what the Holy Father called priests to “smell” like, he would repeat as a call to the laity in his encyclical *“The Joy of the Gospel”*. Francis, in speaking about the laity’s role in evangelization and bearing authentic Christian witness in the world said, “They too must take on the smell of the sheep so that the sheep will hear and listen to their voice.” Priests and laity who put their own “skin and heart on the line” is how we are to take to ourselves the odor of the sheep and bear witness. Francis concluded with something of a warning, “...If (people) do not find in the Church a spirituality that heals them, frees them, fills them with life and peace while calling them to solidarity, communion, and missionary fruitfulness, they will end up deceived by proposals that do not humanize (society) or give glory to God.”(21)

While the image of the Good Shepherd is a favorite one in Christian art, evoking images of gentleness and care, we can forget that this image was used by the Lord in a confrontation with the religious authorities of Jerusalem and, in part, directly contributed to their decision to bring about his death. The reasons why are many, but foremost because, according to Prophet Ezekiel, God promises a day on which “I myself will shepherd my sheep”(Ez. 34:15). Jesus is asserting that He is the fulfillment of this promise and, by extension, is claiming that He Himself is God in the flesh. In Jesus, the Father does not shepherd us from a distance but from among us, beside us, and as one of us, taking to Himself the “smell of the sheep” in His redemptive work.

Jesus is both the Good Shepherd and the Sheep Gate, God in the flesh, who leads us into the fullness of life. But we need to understand that “life in the full” is not some personal standard of happiness. He Himself is “the full life,” and how He shepherds us along the way to Himself may involve trial and testing, as Peter speaks of in the epistle. But He has already conquered



these things and invites us to share in His victory. He has first taken to Himself the smell of the sheep in all their pain and sorrow, their hopes and deepest longings. The priests He calls and the laity He sends can do no less in the sense that we cannot authentically care for parish, community, and those who need our love and charity without putting “skin in the game” of Christian discipleship. Our witness does not have to be “perfect” – it never will be - but it does have to be sincere if others are to encounter Jesus through us, who wills to make us fruitful in mission.

Caring for the sheep can be a messy, smelly task. Experience has taught me that people rarely show up in the way we would like. People come to the Lord and to the Church in all their brokenness and need, with a faith that is often small and not well-formed, and with attitudes that are more formed by the world than they are by the Gospel. What do we do? Ignore them? Judge them? Drive them away? No. Our task is to love them and lead them to Jesus, who laid down His life for them. We can do no less if we are to be faithful to the command and example of Jesus, the Good Shepherd, who took to Himself the smell of the sheep.

Servus,


Rev. Msgr. Joseph G. Celano
Pastor and Director of Schools

To read past messages from the pastor, visit: immaculateconception.org/news.

News & Events

Children's Faith Formation

Our Children's Liturgy of the Word will be celebrated for the final times this school year at the 11:00 am Mass on the following Sundays in **May 3 and May 17**.

Children in Kindergarten through Grade 3 are welcome to join. After the opening prayer at the beginning of Mass, the children will be called forward to hear God's Word, including the readings and a special homily tailored to their level. They will return to the congregation during the Offertory.

Project Linus

THURSDAY, MAY 7, 2026 | 11:00 AM

This group of women quilts, crochets, and knits blankets for infants and children in need. Each handmade blanket is created with care, providing warmth as well as comfort and security. Project Linus blankets are also donated to the Pregnancy Aid Center, our annual Appalachian Mission trips, and Hospice. In addition, the group makes prayer shawls for residents of local nursing homes.

Join us on **Thursday, May 7**, at the Somerville American Legion (232 Union Avenue Somerville, NJ) from 11:00 am to 12:30 pm. New members welcome!

Immaculata High School Annual Garage Sale!

FRIDAY, MAY 8, 2026 - SATURDAY, MAY 9, 2026

Save the dates! Immaculata High School's Campus Ministry is excited to announce that they will hold their Annual Garage Sale on **Friday, May 8** from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm and on **Saturday, May 9** from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm. Items include household items, toys, bikes, clothing and so much more! There is something for everyone! This major fundraiser for Campus Ministry helps to fund outreach programs and retreats. For further details, please call the Immaculata Campus Ministry office at 908-722-0200 x 1123 or email cparas@immaculatahighschool.org.

Men's Fellowship

SATURDAY | MAY 9, 2026 | 7:30 AM

The Men's Fellowship group meets on the second Saturday of the month from 7:30 am to 9:00 am in the Talbot Room. Breakfast, prayer, a brief teaching, and discussion are held. All men 18 or older are welcome to join us **Saturday, May 9**.

UPCOMING COLLECTIONS

Mother's Day: May 9 - 10

Food Collection: May 16 - 17

JANUS Bereavement Support Group

TUESDAY, MAY 12, 2026 | 7:30 PM

Dr. Barbara Ronca has announced that the **Tuesday, May 12**, meeting of the JANUS Bereavement Support Group will feature a talk on "Good Food, Good Mood." It will highlight various methods of food selection to help improve moods. Anyone who has experienced a loss through death, separation/divorce, loss of job, health, pet, self-harm, relocation, or loss of contact with children or grandchildren should plan to attend. There is no fee, but registration is requested with Dr. Ronca at **908-218-9062**. JANUS is a community service of Counseling and Therapy Services and meets at 7:30 pm, the second Tuesday monthly at 1124 Highway 202S, suite A2, Raritan, NJ. 08869

Altar Servers Needed

SATURDAY | MAY 16, 2026 | 9:00 AM

Boys and girls in 4th grade and above who have received First Holy Communion are invited to become altar servers. Serving at the altar is a meaningful way to grow in faith, participate more fully in the Mass, and build friendships while serving our parish community. Join us for our next training session: **Saturday, May 16**, 9:00 am -10:30 am (parents are welcome). RSVP to Deacon David Lang at dlang@icsomerville.org.

2026 Bishop's Annual Appeal

Journeying Together in Faith, Hope and Charity

Thank you to all who have given so generously to the 2026 Bishop's Annual Appeal. If you have not made a pledge, there is still time to participate. Mail your gift to Diocese of Metuchen Bishop's Annual Appeal, PO Box 4000, Metuchen, NJ 08840-4000 or give online at <https://diometuchen.org/BAA>.

Thank You from the Somerville Columbiettes

The Somerville Columbiettes thank you for your generous support of our "Pennies from Heaven" Shake-a-Can held last weekend. Through your kindness, we raised \$1,500 for seminarians and postulants! This NJ State Council Columbiettes program directs 100% of proceeds to support their education. As one of our patronesses, St. Therese the Little Flower, once said: "*What matters in life is not great deeds, but great love*". We are grateful for your generosity and continued support of those dedicating their lives to God.

Rosary Altar Society

Pray the Rosary Together **WEEKDAYS IN MAY | 2:00 PM**

Join the Rosary Altar Society in praying the Rosary during the month of May, a month dedicated to honoring Our Blessed Mother. The Rosary will be prayed at 2:00 pm on weekdays in the church, beneath the statue of the Immaculate Conception. (On Thursdays, we will gather in the Chapel). We invite you to join us in praying this powerful devotion, asking Mary to intercede for all of our intentions.



Mother's Day Mass Cards **WEEKEND OF MAY 2-3**

The Rosary Altar Society will have Mother's Day Mass Cards available after all Masses on **May 2 & 3**. This is a beautiful way to honor our loved ones, living and deceased. Please visit them at all church entrances.

*Rosary Altar Society Meeting, this Sunday, May 3
at 10:00 am in the Cafeteria.*

Guest speaker: Deacon David Lang.

May Ministry

During the month of May, donations are being collected for the Pregnancy Aid and Information Center of Raritan. As an all-volunteer, all-donation center, they count on us to help them support local mothers and their children. Each week, they help upwards of 100 families and need the following items: new or gently used toddler clothing, diapers (especially sizes 4 – 6), baby wipes, toiletries (baby wash, baby shampoo, and diaper cream), and baby formula.

Each year, your generosity astounds those who volunteer at the Center, and we hope for the same support this year. Over the past year, the number of families has grown tremendously, so their needs have increased.

May Crib

A crib will be located in each of the Church entrances for donation collections. For larger baby equipment donations, please contact the Pregnancy Aid and Information Center of Raritan directly at **908-526-8121**.

Baby Bottle Boomerang

Baby Bottles are being distributed after all Masses on the weekend of **May 9 and 10**. These bottles may be filled with loose change, currency, or checks. All the donations will support the Pregnancy Aid and Information Center of Raritan. Please return bottles before all masses on the weekend of **May 23 and 24**.

May is Pro Life Month!

The fundamental human right, the presupposition of every other right, is the right to life itself. This is true of life from the moment of conception until its natural end. Abortion, consequently, cannot be a human right – it is the very opposite. It is "a deep wound in society".

- Pope Benedict XVI

For questions contact the Parish Office at office@icsomerville.org or **908-725-1112**.

Our Parish & Schools



Youth Ministry Corner

Questions? Contact Paulina Garcia
at BAB@boldym.com or 908-552-0620



Trip to Six Flags!

NJ Catholic Youth Day
Sunday, May 17th

Get ready for an epic day with hundreds of teens from across the state!
Ride roller coasters, hang with friends, and soak in a full day of fun, ending together with Mass in the Batman Stunt Arena.

All in 8th Grade and High School
Sunday, May 17th | 8:30AM - 8:30 PM
Cost: \$85.00 (\$35.00 with Season Pass)

The cost of the day includes admission to Six Flags Great Adventure, transportation and a "Mega-Meal Voucher."



To Register, Scan QR Code or visit boldym.com/BAB/events

Spice up your night at Taco Tuesday!

Tuesday, May 12th | 7:00-8:30PM
Immaculate Conception Church




Games, snacks, music, and plenty of time to hang out with friends, don't miss the fun!

Visit boldym.com/BAB/events to RSVP!

BOLD Middle Photo Scavenger Hunt!

Get ready for a night of fun and adventure! Grab your friends as we race to complete a photo scavenger hunt, with creative, funny, and faith-inspired pictures along the way.

All in Middle School
Thursday, May 21st | 6:30-8:00PM
St. Bernard's Youth Room




Don't miss out on this awesome night of laughs, fun and friendly competition! Please RSVP at boldym.com/BAB/events




Be a Big Winner



Buy a ticket for the Spartan BIG CASH Raffle!

Grand Prize - **35% of Gross Ticket Sales**,
2nd Prize - **10% of Gross Ticket Sales**,
3rd Prize - **5% of Gross Ticket Sales**.

Buy a ticket for **\$100**, or **3 for \$200**. Just **1000 tickets** will be sold.

Proceeds benefit Immaculata High School Tuition Assistance Program.

Winners to be announced on May 30, 2026.



Scan here for information or to reserve your tickets, or send the form below with your payment to

Big Cash Raffle
Immaculata High School
240 Mountain Avenue
Somerville, NJ 08876

SATURDAY, MAY 30, 2026 at 8:30 am

SPARTAN SPIRIT

5K



IMMACULATA HIGH SCHOOL
240 MOUNTAIN AVE SOMERVILLE, NJ

For sponsorships visit: <https://www.immaculatahighschool.org/5k>

The 2026 Spartan Spirit 5K will be run through the historic streets of downtown Somerville on Saturday, May 30, 2026, beginning at 8:30 am. The race will start and end at 240 Mountain Avenue. Funds raised through this event will directly support the financial aid efforts of our parish schools. Entry in the race entitles participants to post-race awards breakfast and beverage garden. Alumni and friends will have the opportunity to tour the high school campus following the race.



Register Today





Giving

Thank you! We are so encouraged by all of the ways that you respond to God's faithfulness and share your gifts. Gifts of prayer, time, and talent serve and support our community in so many ways. Your financial gifts are incredible acts of service that allow us to continue our mission and the work of the Church.

To give online, visit
immaculateconception.org/give
or to enroll in our simple, automatic giving system, visit:
<https://giving.parishsoft.com/app/giving/FD-630>



Helpful Info

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION COMMUNICATIONS

To get the latest news, photos, and stories, follow us on Facebook and Instagram (@icsomerville), and subscribe to our email list to get all the latest content delivered right to your inbox. Visit us online at
immaculateconception.org/subscribe
or scan the QR code to connect.



NAVEX ETHICSPPOINT

The Diocese of Metuchen implemented an independent third-party reporting system initiative to provide a confidential method for the employees, volunteers, and parishioners to report suspected financial malfeasance in our parishes, schools, cemeteries, and diocesan institutions.

- Web: diometuchen.ethicspoint.com
- Mobile: Scan the QR code to the right
- Hotline: 844-796-1296



HOSPITALIZED OR HOMEBOUND?

Please notify the parish office at **908-725-1112** when a parishioner or family member is confined to their home, hospitalized, or entering a nursing home, so that the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick or a visitation to bring the Holy Eucharist can be arranged.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please have a family member or the individual contact us to have their name included on our prayer list. The request will be included for two months, unless otherwise notified.

HAPPENING THIS WEEK AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

MONDAY, MAY 4

6:30 am Mass, Chapel
8:00 am Mass, Chapel
2:00 pm Month of Mary Rosary, Church
2:45 pm Children's Choir Practice, Church Music Office
7:00 pm Miraculous Medal Rosary & Novena, Chapel

TUESDAY, MAY 5

6:30 am Mass, Chapel
8:00 am Mass, Chapel
8:30 am - 3:00 pm Eucharistic Adoration, Chapel
2:00 pm Month of Mary Rosary, Church
8:00 pm Men's Evening Prayer, Chapel

Wednesday, MAY 6

6:30 am Mass, Chapel
8:00 am Mass, Chapel
10:00 am The Imitation of Christ, St. Anne's Room
2:00 pm Month of Mary Rosary, Church
6:30 pm Handbell Rehearsal, Church Music Office

THURSDAY, MAY 7

6:30 am Mass, Chapel
8:00 am Mass, Chapel
11:00 am Project Linus, Somerville American Legion
2:00 pm Rosary, Chapel
2:45 pm Girls' Choir Practice, Church Music Office
7:00 pm Filipino/American Association Prayer Group, Virtual
7:00 pm Immaculate Conception Choir Practice, Church

FRIDAY, MAY 8

6:30 am Mass, Chapel
8:30 am Mass, Church
9:00 am - 7:00 pm Eucharistic Adoration, Chapel
2:00 pm Month of Mary Rosary, Church

SATURDAY, MAY 9

7:30 am Men's Fellowship, Talbot Room
8:00 am Mass, Church
3:30 pm - 4:30 pm Confession, Church
5:00 pm Vigil Mass, Church

SUNDAY, MAY 10

7:30 am Mass, Church
9:00 am Mass, Church
11:00 am Mass, Church
1:00 pm Spanish Mass, Church
7:00 pm Moms' Faith Sharing, Cafeteria

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR PARISHIONERS WHO ARE SICK:

Jozelle Acampado, Don Alaburda, Lou Bickel, Erin Calicchio, Wanda De Jesús Villafañe, Joseph Dina Sr., Louis Grosso, Lynette Klar, Diana Konopka, Lygia Lewis, Megan Lisner, Joseph Malinowski, Thomas Malinowski, Dave Myers, Mary Moody, Suzanne Petto, Christine Phillips, Amy Pitucco, Thomas Rucci, Sal & Jena Schellato, Phyllis Schmidt, and Robert & Pat Tocci

At the Last Supper, Jesus tells us there is room for us in His Father's house (Heaven) and the way there is through Jesus.

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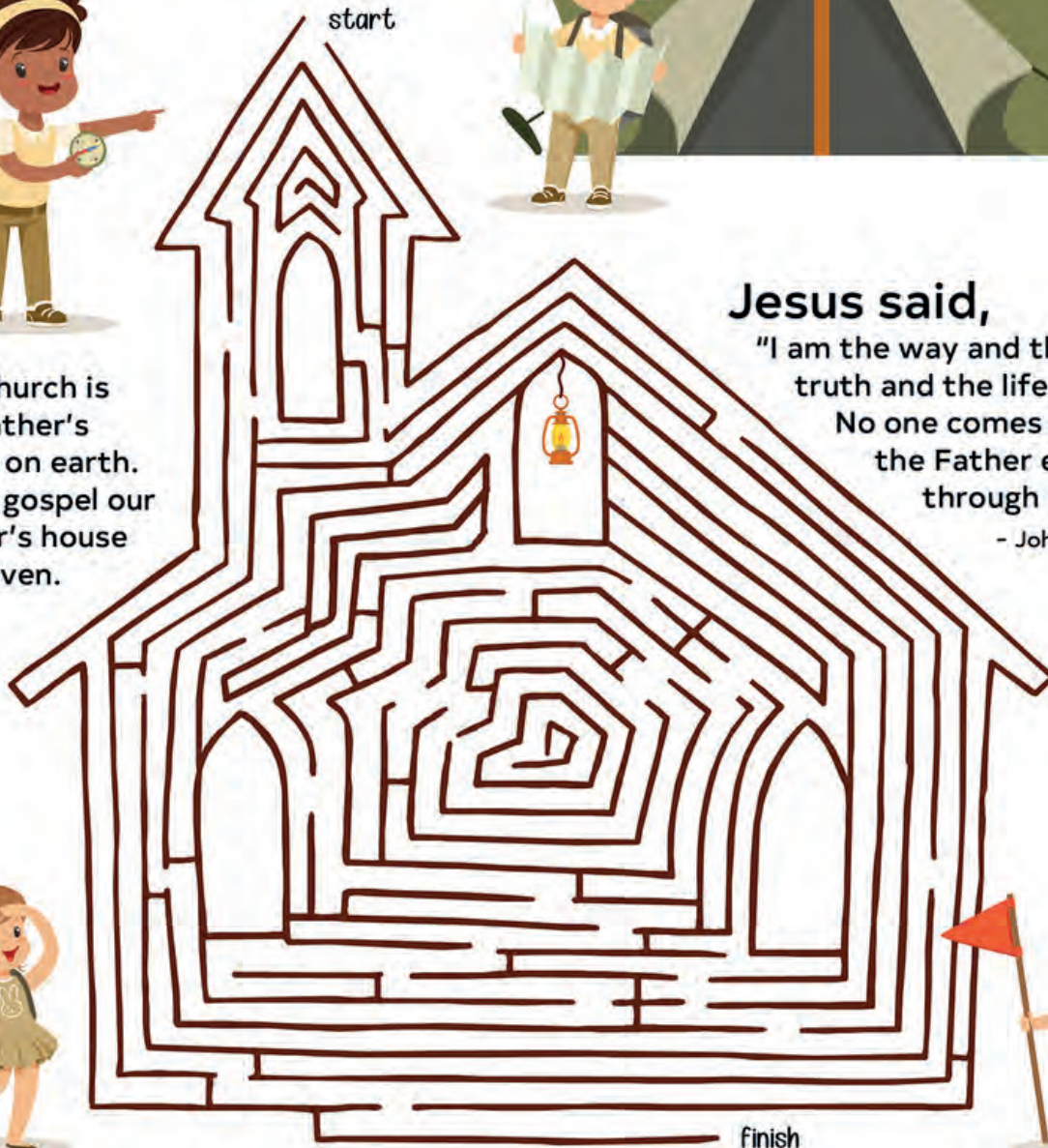
The church helps us find our way to heaven.



The Church is our Father's house on earth. In the gospel our Father's house is Heaven.



Jesus said,
"I am the way and the truth and the life.
No one comes to the Father except through Me."
- John 14:6



Parish Office

The parish offices are located in the white building in front of the church. The parish office hours are Monday through Friday from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. The office will be closed daily from 12:30 pm - 1:00 pm.



OUR STAFF

Please know that all of us at the Church of the Immaculate Conception are here to be of service to you. Please never hesitate to seek our support whenever it may be needed. The parish office can be reached at **908-725-1112** or office@icsomerville.org.

Rev. Msgr. Joseph G. Celano	Pastor	jcelano@icsomerville.org
Rev. Jerome Ocampo	Parochial Vicar	jocampo@icsomerville.org
Rev. Gustavo Rodriguez-Perez	Parochial Vicar	grodriguez@icsomerville.org
John R. Czekaj, ICS '62, IHS '66	Deacon	office@icsomerville.org
Reynaldo Lopez	Deacon	rlopez@icsomerville.org
David Lang, ICS '79, IHS '83	Deacon	dlang@icsomerville.org
Tuan Bui	Deacon	tbui@icsomerville.org
Katie Parsells, ICS '99, IHS '03	Principal, Immaculate Conception School	kparsells@ics41mtn.org
Ed Webber, IHS '99	Principal, Immaculata High School	ewebber@immaculatahighschool.org
Milton Ayala	Director, Maintenance	maintenance@ics41mtn.org
Beverly Gaffney	School/Parish Bookkeeper	bgaffney@ics41mtn.org
Gary Gavula	Director, Sacred Music	ggavula@icsomerville.org
Paulina Garcia	Bilingual Youth Minister	icc@boldym.com
Stacey Geary, IHS '91	Assistant, Marketing & Communications	sgeary@icsomerville.org
Michael Giangreco, IHS '06	Director of Technologies	mgiangreco@immaculatahighschool.org
Amberle Gilroy	Event Planning & Management	agilroy@icsomerville.org
Juan Carlos Gonzalez	Parish Catechetical Leader	jcgonzalez@icsomerville.org
Susan Odenthal	Interim Director, Advancement	sodenthal@icsomerville.org
Jo Anne Peppe	Business Manager	jpeppe@icsomerville.org
Rick Proctor	Director, Security	rproctor@icsomerville.org
Jenny Santiago	Bilingual Secretary, Children's Faith Formation	jsantiago@icsomerville.org
Colleen Young	Parish Secretary	cyoung@icsomerville.org

*For sacramental emergencies only that require the immediate attention of a priest call **908-698-9107**.*



Bienvenido a la Iglesia Inmaculada Concepción

"La Inmaculada Concepción es una parroquia de la Diócesis Católica Romana de Metuchen, Nueva Jersey. Buscamos vivir el evangelio como fieles discípulos de Jesucristo. Como mayordomos de los dones que Dios nos ha dado, proclamamos la Buena Nueva de la salvación. Fortalecidos por el Espíritu Santo, somos comisionados como apóstoles para transformar todas las cosas en Cristo."

Ya sea que esta sea su primera Misa con nosotros o que sea un feligrés de toda la vida, estamos muy contentos de que esté aquí. Esperamos que la Iglesia Immaculate Conception pueda ser un lugar para llamar hogar. Si es nuevo aquí, visítenos en línea en immaculateconception.org o visite la oficina parroquial. Por favor, no dude en comunicarse y presentarse. ¡Nos encantaría conocerle!

Lecturas de La Semana

Domingo, 3 de mayo

Hechos de los Apóstoles 6:1-7; 1 Pedro 2:4-9; Juan 14:1-12

Lunes, 4 de mayo

Hechos de los Apóstoles 14:5-18; Juan 14:21-26

Martes, 5 de mayo

Hechos de los Apóstoles 14:19-28; Juan 14:27-31a

Miércoles, 6 de mayo

Hechos de los Apóstoles 15:1-6; Juan 15:1-8

Jueves, 7 de mayo

Hechos de los Apóstoles 15:7-21; Juan 15:9-11

Viernes, 8 de mayo

Hechos de los Apóstoles 15:22-31; Juan 15:12-17

Sábado, 9 de mayo

Hechos de los Apóstoles 16:1-10; Juan 15:18-21

Intenciones de Misas

Lámpara del Santuario, Iglesia
Dorothy Kotalic

Domingo, 3 de mayo

Quinto Domingo de Pascua

7:30 am Katie Reid

9:00 am Diácono Arnold DeMarco

11:00 am Anne Nee

1:00 pm Linda Gonzalez D. Garcia

Lunes, 4 de mayo

6:30 am Almas del Purgatorio

8:00 am Salvatore Galandra

Martes, 5 de mayo

6:30 am La familia Christy

8:00 am Francisco Gomez

Miércoles, 6 de mayo

6:30 am Jacqueline Amatucci

8:00 am Quirino Acebes

Jueves, 7 de mayo

6:30 am Lisa Santa Lucia

8:00 am Sherry Kosinski y Flora Kosinski

Viernes, 8 de mayo

6:30 am Malcolm Forrester

8:30 am Charles y Ruth Delayo

10:00 am Intenciones de Donna Pizzigoni y Craig Major

Sábado, 9 de mayo

8:00 am Catherine Melewski

5:00 pm Por el Pueblo de nuestra Parroquia

Domingo, 10 de mayo

Sexto Domingo de Pascua

Día de las Madres

7:30 am Todas las madres, vivas y fallecidas

9:00 am Todas las madres, vivas y fallecidas

11:00 am Todas las madres, vivas y fallecidas

1:00 pm Todas las madres, vivas y fallecidas

Solo para emergencias sacramentales que requieran la atención inmediata de un sacerdote, llame **908-698-9107**.

Del Párroco

Una reflexión del Cuarto Domingo de Pascua

En su homilía de 2013, el Papa Francisco llamó la atención internacional al pedirles a los sacerdotes que *"tomen el olor de las ovejas"*. Lo que quiso decir con esto es sencillo: es tarea del pastor — el obispo y el párroco — acercarse a las personas confiadas a su cuidado, acompañarlas en las alegrías y tristezas de sus vidas, dejar de lado sus propias necesidades y ambiciones y, como continuó Francisco, *"poner su propia piel y su propio corazón en juego"* por amor a Cristo y a la Iglesia.

Pero lo que el Santo Padre pidió a los sacerdotes que *"olieran"*, también lo repitió como un llamado a los laicos en su exhortación apostólica *"La alegría del Evangelio"*. Francisco, al hablar sobre el papel de los laicos en la evangelización y en dar un testimonio cristiano auténtico en el mundo, dijo: *"También ellos deben tomar el olor de las ovejas para que las ovejas escuchen y atiendan su voz"*. Sacerdotes y laicos que ponen su propia *"piel y corazón en juego"* es la manera en que asumimos el olor de las ovejas y damos testimonio. Francisco concluyó con algo parecido a una advertencia: *"...Si (las personas) no encuentran en la Iglesia una espiritualidad que las sane, las libere, las llene de vida y de paz, y al mismo tiempo las llame a la solidaridad, a la comunión y a la fecundidad misionera, terminarán siendo engañadas por propuestas que no humanizan (a la sociedad) ni dan gloria a Dios."* (21)

Aunque la imagen del Buen Pastor es una de las favoritas en el arte cristiano, evocando imágenes de ternura y cuidado, podemos olvidar que esta imagen fue utilizada por el Señor en una confrontación con las autoridades religiosas de Jerusalén y que, en parte, contribuyó directamente a su decisión de provocar su muerte. Las razones son muchas, pero principalmente porque, según el profeta Ezequiel, Dios promete un día en el que *"Yo mismo apacentaré a mis ovejas"* (Ez. 34:15).

Jesús afirma que Él es el cumplimiento de esta promesa y, por extensión, está declarando que Él mismo es Dios hecho carne. En Jesús, el Padre no nos pastorea desde lejos, sino desde entre nosotros, junto a nosotros y como uno de nosotros, tomando sobre sí el *"olor de las ovejas"* en su obra redentora.

Jesús es a la vez el Buen Pastor y la Puerta de las ovejas, Dios hecho carne, que nos conduce a la plenitud de la vida. Pero debemos entender que la *"vida en plenitud"* no es simplemente un estándar personal de felicidad. Él mismo es *"la vida plena"*, y la manera en



que nos guía hacia Él puede implicar pruebas y dificultades, como habla Pedro en la epístola. Pero Él ya ha vencido todas estas cosas y nos invita a compartir su victoria. Él primero tomó sobre sí el olor de las ovejas en todo su dolor y sufrimiento, en sus esperanzas y en sus anhelos más profundos. Los sacerdotes a quienes llama y los laicos a quienes envía no pueden hacer menos, en el sentido de que no podemos cuidar auténticamente de la parroquia, de la comunidad y de aquellos que necesitan nuestro amor y caridad sin involucrarnos verdaderamente en el discipulado cristiano. Nuestro testimonio no tiene que ser *"perfecto"* —nunca lo será—, pero sí debe ser sincero si los demás han de encontrarse con Jesús a través de nosotros, quien desea hacernos fecundos en la misión.

Cuidar de las ovejas puede ser una tarea desordenada y difícil. La experiencia me ha enseñado que las personas rara vez llegan de la manera que nos gustaría. Las personas vienen al Señor y a la Iglesia con toda su fragilidad y necesidad, con una fe que a menudo es pequeña y poco formada, y con actitudes más influenciadas por el mundo que por el Evangelio. ¿Qué hacemos entonces? ¿Ignorarlas? ¿Juzgarlas? ¿Alejarlas? No. Nuestra tarea es amarlas y guiarlas hacia Jesús, quien entregó su vida por ellas. No podemos hacer menos si queremos ser fieles al mandato y al ejemplo de Jesús, el Buen Pastor, que tomó sobre sí el olor de las ovejas.

Servo,

Rev. Mons. Joseph G. Celano

Rev. Mons. Joseph G. Celano
Párroco y Director de Escuelas

Nuestra Iglesia

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Preguntas? Contacta a Paulina Garcia por BAB@boldym.com o al 908-552-0620

**Viaje a Six Flags!**
NJ Catholic Youth Day
Domingo 17 de Mayo
¡Prepárate para un día épico junto a cientos de adolescentes de todo el estado! Súbete a las montañas rusas, pasa el rato con tus amigos y disfruta de un día entero de diversión, para finalizar todos juntos con la Misa en el Batman Stunt Arena.
Todos los alumnos de 8th grado y High School
Domingo 17 de Mayo | 8:30AM - 8:30 PM
Costo: \$85.00 (\$35.00 con Season Pass)
El costo del día incluye la entrada a Six Flags Great Adventure, el transporte y un «Vale de Mega-Comida».

Escanea el QR code para Registrarte o visita boldym.com/BAB/events

**¡Dale sabor a tu noche en el Taco Tuesday!**
Martes 12 de Mayo | 7:00-8:30PM
Iglesia de la Inmaculada Concepcion
Juegos, tacos, música y mucho tiempo para pasar el rato con amigos: ¡no te pierdas la diversión!
¡Visita boldym.com/BAB/events para confirmar tu asistencia!

BOLD Middle : ¡Búsqueda fotográfica!
¡Prepárense para una noche de diversión y aventura! Reúnan a sus amigos mientras competimos en una búsqueda del tesoro fotográfica, capturando imágenes creativas, divertidas e inspiradas en la fe a lo largo del recorrido.
Todo en Middle School
Martes 21 de Mayo | 6:30-8:00PM
Sala juvenil en St. Bernard's
¡No te pierdas esta increíble noche de risas, diversión y competencia amistosa! Por favor, confirma tu asistencia en boldym.com/BAB/events

Ministerio de Mayo

Durante el mes de mayo, se estarán recolectando donaciones para el Pregnancy Aid and Information Center de Raritan. Como un centro que funciona completamente con voluntarios y donaciones, dependen de nosotros para ayudarles a apoyar a las madres locales y a sus hijos. Cada semana, ayudan a más de 100 familias y necesitan los siguientes artículos: ropa para niños pequeños (nueva o en buen estado), pañales (especialmente tallas 4 a 6), toallitas húmedas para bebés, artículos de higiene (jabón para bebé, champú para bebé y crema para pañalitis) y fórmula para bebés.

Cada año, su generosidad sorprende a quienes sirven como voluntarios en el Centro, y esperamos contar con el mismo apoyo este año. Durante el último año, el número de familias ha crecido enormemente, por lo que sus necesidades también han aumentado.

Para preguntas, comuníquese con la Oficina Parroquial en office@icsomerville.org o al 908-725-1112.

Campaña del biberón solidario

Se están distribuyendo biberones después de todas las Misas el fin de semana del 9 y 10 de mayo. Estos biberones pueden llenarse con monedas sueltas, billetes o cheques. Todas las donaciones apoyarán al Pregnancy Aid and Information Center de Raritan. Por favor, devuelva los biberones antes de todas las Misas del fin de semana del 23 y 24 de mayo.

Cuna de Mayo

Se colocará una cuna en cada entrada de la iglesia para la recolección de donaciones. Para donaciones de equipo para bebés de mayor tamaño, por favor comuníquese directamente con el Centro al 908-526-8121.

Noticias y Eventos

ESTA SEMANA EN LA INMACULADA CONCEPCIÓN



ANUNCIO IMPORTANTE

El grupo de Oración de la
Renovación Carismática les
informa que El Circulo de Oración
se reunirá todos los

Miércoles en la Capilla de la Iglesia Comenzando a las 7:00PM con el Rosario

*Gracias
Les Esperamos!*

Se Necesitan Monaguillos SÁBADO | 16 DE MAYO DE 2026 | 9:00 AM

Niños y niñas de 4.º grado en adelante que hayan recibido la Primera Comunión están invitados a convertirse en monaguillos. Servir en el altar es una manera significativa de crecer en la fe, participar más plenamente en la Misa y formar amistades mientras sirven a nuestra comunidad parroquial. Acompáñenos en nuestra próxima sesión de capacitación: Sábado, 16 de mayo, de 9:00 am a 10:30 am (los padres son bienvenidos).

Confirme su asistencia (RSVP) con el Diácono David Lang en dlang@icsomerville.org.

LUNES, 4 DE MAYO

6:30 am Misa, Capilla
8:00 am Misa, Capilla
2:00 pm Rosario del Mes de María, Iglesia
2:45 pm Práctica del Coro de Niños, Oficina de Música
7:00 pm Rosario y Novena de la Medalla Milagrosa, Capilla

MARTES, 5 DE MAYO

6:30 am Misa, Capilla
8:00 am Misa, Capilla
8:30 am - 3:00 pm Adoración Eucarística, Capilla
2:00 pm Rosario del Mes de María, Iglesia
8:00 pm Oración Vespertina de Hombres, Capilla

MIÉRCOLES, 6 DE MAYO

6:30 am Misa, Capilla
8:00 am Misa, Capilla
2:00 pm Rosario del Mes de María, Iglesia
6:30 pm Ensayo de Campanas de Mano, Oficina de Música
7:00 pm Renovación Carismática, Capilla

JUEVES, 7 DE MAYO

6:30 am Misa, Capilla
8:00 am Misa, Capilla
2:00 pm Rosario, Capilla
2:45 pm Práctica del Coro de Niñas, Oficina de Música
7:00 pm Ensayo del Coro de la Inmaculada Concepción, Iglesia
7:30 pm Grupo de Oración Juan XXIII, Cafetería

VIERNES, 8 DE MAYO

6:30 am Misa, Capilla
8:30 am Misa, Iglesia
9:00 am - 7:00 pm Adoración Eucarística, Capilla
2:00 pm Rosario del Mes de María, Iglesia

SÁBADO, 9 DE MAYO

8:00 am Misa, Iglesia
12:00 pm Ensayo del Coro Hispano, Oficina de Música de la Iglesia
3:30 pm - 4:30 pm Confesión, Iglesia
5:00 pm Misa de Vigilia, Iglesia
6:00 pm La Hora Mariana, Virtual

DOMINGO, 10 DE MAYO

7:30 am Misa, Iglesia
9:00 am Misa, Iglesia
11:00 am Misa, Iglesia
1:00 pm Misa en Español, Iglesia

POR FAVOR RECEN POR NUESTROS FELIGRESES QUE ESTÉN ENFERMOS:

Jozelle Acampado, Don Alaburda, Lou Bickel, Erin Calicchio, Wanda De Jesús Villafañe, Joseph Dina Sr., Louis Grosso, Lynette Klar, Diana Konopka, Lygia Lewis, Megan Lisner, Joseph Malinowski, Thomas Malinowski, Dave Myers, Mary Moody, Suzanne Petto, Christine Phillips, Amy Pitucco, Thomas Rucci, Sal y Jena Schellato, Phyllis Schmidt y Robert y Pat Tocci



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