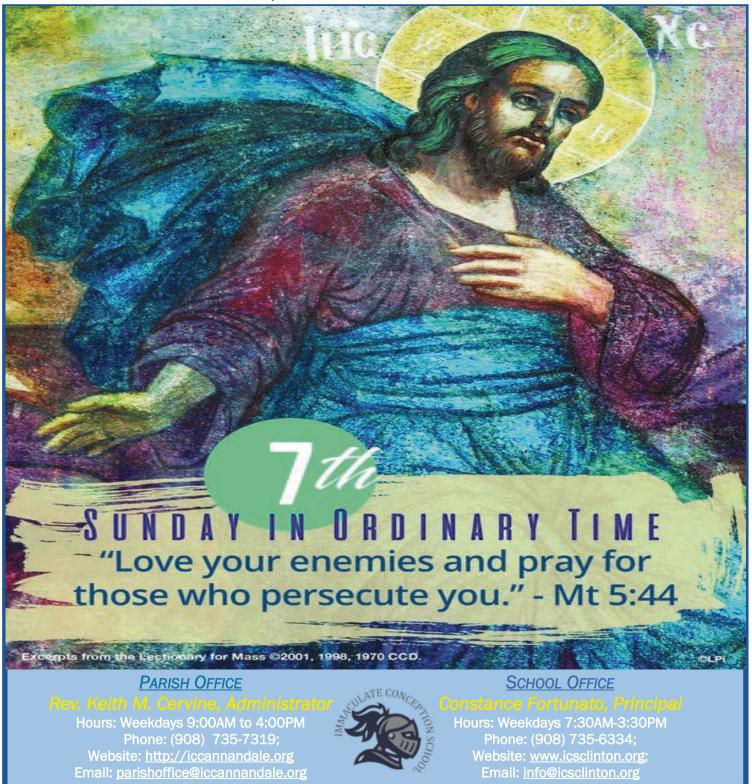




February 19, 2023
7th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
316 Old Allerton Road
Annandale, NJ 08801

WELCOME TO OUR CHURCH, A CARING AND SHARING CATHOLIC COMMUNITY



Parish Mission Statement

We, the parish community of Immaculate Conception Church, have as our mission to unite all of our members in God's Name to live the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We share our gifts through worship, education, fellowship, and community outreach, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit and the intercession of Mary Immaculate.



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH

OUR LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

Sat. Vigil: 4:30PM

Sunday: 8:00, 10:00AM, 12:00, 5:00PM **Weekdays:** Monday- Friday 7:00, 9:00AM

Saturday - 9:00AM

Confession: Saturday 11:30 to Noon; 3:30 to 4:00 PM **Adoration:** Fridays after 9 AM Mass to 6:00 PM

Rosary: Wednesday at 8:30 AM

Miraculous Medal Novena: Saturday after 9AM Mass

MASSES AND REQUESTED INTENTIONS

Monday, February 20 (Weekday)

7:00am NO 7:00 AM MASS

9:00 am Mary Burr (r/o Catherine Beaton)

Tuesday, February 21 (Weekday)

7:00 am Audrey Medway (r/o Son, Evan Medway)

9:00 am Deceased Members of Barron Rzepka Families (r/o Darlene McBride Gerba)

Wednesday, February 22 (Ash Wednesday)

7:00 am Dennis Mickalowski (r/o Frank Ocello)

9:00 am Kathleen Reid (r/o Kathy Clare)

12:00 pm Jeffrey Ryan (r/o The McSweeney Family)

4:30 pm Patti Biondo (r/o Rob & Dawn Ashworth)

7:00pm Pedro Sanchez (r/o Wife, Children, Grandchildren & Gt. Grandchildren)

Thursday, February 23 (St. Polycarp, Bishop & Martyr)

7:00 am Katharina Petri (r/o William Petri)

9:00 am Kathleen Reid (r/o John & Patricia Hughes)

Friday, February 24 (Weekday)

7:00 am Deceased members of Barron-Rzepka Families (r/o Gerba Family)

9:00 am Intentions of Rocco & Vicki Panzarino (r/o Catherine Beaton)

Saturday, February 25 (Weekday)

9:00 am Frances Hatch (r/o The Riebling Family)

4:30 pm Emily Klopotek (r/o Fr. Keith)

Sunday, February 26 (First Sunday of Lent)

8:00 am For Our Parishioners

10:00am Marguerite Crosby (r/o The Gildersleeve Family)

12:00 pm Elizabeth Marabuto (r/o Lauren, Dottie & Kate)

5:00pm Philomena Koes (r/o Danette & Gary Yakely)

CLERGY PARISH STAFF

Rev. Keith M. Cervine

Administrator

Michael Szalecki
Business Administrator

Rev. Ariel R. Bautista, Jr.

Parochial Vicar

Laura Vitelli Pastoral Associate Parish Advancement

Deacon William Bauer

(Retired)

Coleen D'Amato

Parish Catechetical Leader

Deacon Joseph Campbell

Coleen Donaher Parish Secretary

Deacon Michael Martini

Melissa Lagun *Financial Manager*

Deacon Mark

van Duynhoven

Mary Hegarty

Administrative Assistant



THE PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20 FOR PRESIDENTS' DAY

ALL ABOUT LENT

2023 LENTEN OBLIGATIONS

- 1. Ash Wednesday & Good Friday are days of fast & abstinence
- 2. All other Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence (see note below with regards to March 17).
- 3. The obligation of fast applies only to Catholics between the ages of 18 and 59. Fasting in the Catholic tradition means to limit oneself to one full meal and two smaller meals which together are not equal to a full meal, so as to experience hunger.
- 4. The obligation of abstinence applies to all Catholics who have reached the age of 14. Abstinence in the Catholic tradition means to abstain from meat.

Note: This year, the Memorial of St. Patrick falls on a Friday. For members of the faithful celebrating this Memorial and who desire it, Bishop Checchio has commuted the penitential obligation on March 17 to the obligation to abstain from meat on another day that same week.

ASH WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE

February 22: 7:00 AM, 9:00 AM, 12:00 Noon, 4:30 PM and 7:00 PM

Please note: Ashes will only be distributed at Masses (ICS will have services in school)



LENTEN PENANCE SERVICE

Wednesday, March 29 7:00 PM

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Stations of the Cross will be prayed every Friday at 7:00 PM in the Church, this Friday will be led by Fr. Ariel and he will be utilizing *The Way of the Cross with Scriptures*, all are welcome!

COFFEE WITH THE CLERGY

An adaptation of the Speakin' Deacons which some parishioners requested to return. Each week of Lent (with the exception of Palm Sunday) these sessions will be held immediately *following* the Sunday 5:00 PM Mass.

Each session will consist of a brief presentation on the week's topic, followed by a period of Q&A where Parishioners can ask any questions, not just on the week's topic.

1st Sunday in Lent, February 26, Suffering, Deacon Mark

2nd Sunday in Lent, **March 5** (the 5:00 PM Mass this day will be a *teaching Mass*), *Eucharist*, Fr. Keith

3rd Sunday in Lent, March 12, Penance/Penitence, Fr. Ariel

4th Sunday in Lent, March 19, *The Family as Domestic Church*, Deacon Michael

5th Sunday in Lent, **March 26**, **TBD**-topic based on what we hear from the previous sessions & where the Holy Spirit guides us.

LENTEN ALMS CHANGE LIVES

Each Lent, Catholic families across the country unite to put their faith into action through prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Through CRS Rice Bowl, families lear

and almsgiving. Through CRS Rice Bowl, families learn about how our sisters and brothers across the globe overcome hardships like hunger and malnutrition, and how through Lenten alms, we have the power to make the world a better place for all.



The Sanctuary Candle for Feb 19-25 is lit For the Intentions of Helen Devaney



CHURCH HOURS

Our church is open everyday for visits to pray or light a candle from 6:30am-7:00pm

From the Administrator's Desi

I was blessed this past week to celebrate the Sacrament of First Penance with our second grade PREP and ICS children. During the short service, I reminded parents of the importance of being good role models for their children and that Jesus' words of love and forgiveness are not just meant for the children. One of the comments that was made after one of the sessions was about how much the children were smiling afterwards even though many were very nervous before going into the Confessional. I know that when I go to Confession, it feels like a great weight is lifted off of my soul and I can't help but smile. One thing that people tend to worry about is saying the right words. First off, please know that Fr. Ariel or I will help you if you need it. Secondly, now is the perfect time to go since later this week, almost all priests will be worried about the same thing! Starting on Ash Wednesday, the words of the prayer of Absolution will be slightly changed (This Wednesday is the optional start time, but it must be in practice by the second Sunday of Easter).

The new prayer of absolution will be: "God, the Father of mercies, through the death and resurrection of his son has reconciled the world to himself and *poured out* (currently, sent) the Holy Spirit for the forgiveness of sins; through the ministry of the church may God *grant* (currently, give) you pardon and peace, and I absolve you from your sins in the name of the Father, (+) and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." By the way, for those of us who are scrupulous, if the priest makes a mistake in the changed words, according to the USCCB and Vatican, your absolution is still completely valid, so do not worry.

I always loved the prayer of Absolution (I also love the Act of Contrition) in both receiving it and praying it over a repentant sinner I get back to the basic beliefs of our faith. God is the Father of mercies and one can feel the presence of the Holy Spirit in the Confessional washing away the sins of our lives, so "poured out" is a beautiful change. Through this forgiveness, we are not only granted pardon for our offenses but we also receive the peace that comes from Christ that we so desire in our lives. St. Augustine of Hippo in his Confessions wrote "You have made us for Yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you." Sin separates us from God, but He wants us to return to Him, our hearts want to return to Him, so don't fight that desire, it is the only thing that will truly bring us peace. Pope St. John Paul II started his pontificate with the words "Be not afraid." In 1999, he also told young people: "Do not be satisfied with mediocrity... Do not be afraid to be holy! Have the courage and humility to present yourselves to the world determined to be holy, since full, true freedom is born from holiness. This aspiration will help you discover genuine love..." May we all experience God's love through Confession this Lent!

Pax et bonum.

Fr. Keith

THE SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

IF YOU ASK

ME, GOD, HERE'S

WHAT I

THINK YOU

SHOULD Do ...



BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL

"Renewed and Sent on Mission by the Eucharist"



By now you have received a letter from Bishop Checchio inviting your participation in the 2023 Bishop's Annual Appeal. The diocesan ministries supported by the Appeal directly impact many of the parishioners here in Immaculate Conception Church. Your gift provides formation opportunities for our catechists, youth, and young adults. In the coming

days, you will be receiving a letter from our Administrator Fr. Keith encouraging your participation. If you have yet to make your gift, please prayerfully consider doing so today by either returning your pledge card in the mail or going to the secure website: https://diometuchen.org/BAA

DONATIONS TO BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL AS OF TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14:

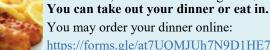


This week's second collection, announced last week, supports the recovery efforts in Turkey and Syria after the earthquakes.

ASH WEDNESDAY FISH FRY

FISH FRY

The Knights of Columbus Annual Ash Wednesday Fish Fry Dinner will be held from 4:30 to 7 PM in the Parish Hall. The menu will consist of fried battered cod, coleslaw, french fries, & beverage for \$15 or a grilled cheese, French fries, coleslaw & beverage for \$7.



Order forms are available in the Narthex of the Church.

Thank you for your support!



"To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heavens" (Ecclesiastes 3:1)

"A Time to Be Born"

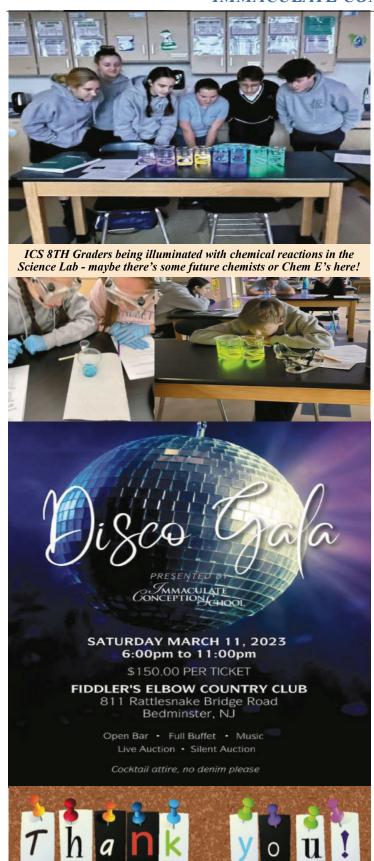
Adeline Griscavage

"A Time to Die"

JoAnne Lenzi Rest in Peace

"A Time to Heal"

Please pray for those who are ill



Thank You to all who worked on and participated in the Tricky Tray on Saturday. There were over 120 baskets to choose from! Don't forget that the raffle is still going until March 11 and if you liked the choices at the Tricky Tray, just wait till you see what is available at the Gala!

CATHOLIC SCHOOL TUITION ASSISTANCE -ONLINE APPLICATION PROCESS OPEN

Families interested in applying for tuition assistance to attend an eligible Diocese of Metuchen elementary or high school in the 2023-24 school year may apply online now through FACTS Grant & Aid Assessment at https://online.factsmgmt.com/aid. Online applications must be completed (including all required documentation) by no later than March 31, 2023. Families that need assistance completing the online application or need access to a computer to apply should contact their school.



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BLANKETS, CURTAINS, BRIEFCASES



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Saturday, March 25, 2023 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM 314 Old Allerton Road

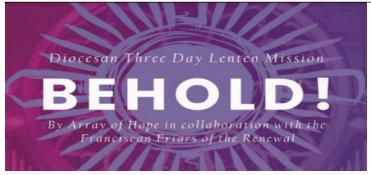
50/50 RAFFLE TICKETS

Tickets for our Gala 50/50 Raffle are available in the Parish Office or ordered online at https://icsannandale.org/50-50. The 50/50 drawing will take place on March 11, 2023, but the winner does not need to be present. Thank you for your continued support! Any questions contact: icsgala@icsclinton.org



AROUND THE DIOCESE

Alter Posery Society



A THREE-NIGHT ENCOUNTER WITH JESUS IN THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

At the Cathedral of St. Francis of Assisi, Metuchen

Monday, March 6 at 6:30 pm Tuesday, March 7 at 6:30 pm

Wednesday, March 8 at 6:30 pm followed by closing Mass with Bishop Checchio at 7:30 pm

Livestream of the mission talks will be available at

www.stfranciscathedral.org and

www.diometuchen.org/eucharisticrevival

Questions? Please contact the Secretariat for Evangelization and Communication at (732) 529-7936.

"I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Mt 28:20)

March 12, 2023

St. Thomas Aquinas High School, Edison 11:30 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.

Cost: \$20 The METUCHEN



Throughout the course of this day, teens will come celebrated by Bishop Checchio, have fun with one another, hear a keynote from CFR, Fr. Malachy, have the apportunity for Adoration and Confession and enjoy some live music, good food, and more!



Revival

SURVIVING DIVORCE

Surviving Divorce is for or men and women seeking healing from separation or divorce. This 12-week program, while based on the teachings of the Catholic Church, is open to anyone who needs comfort, counsel and clarity after a divorce. Meetings will be held on Thursdays 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM beginning March 2, 2023 at the St. John Neumann Pastoral Center, 146 Metlars Lane, Piscataway, NJ. For more information or to register contact: Ro Bersch at 908-313-5947.



SAVE THE DATE!

Our Parish Festival will be held from June 21-25, 2023, mark your calendars and get ready for the fun!

PARISH MINISTRIES TZ 41 C1

000 256 2002

Altar Rosary Society	Katny Clare	908-256-2803	
(2ND. Tues. of the month, 6:30pm, Parish Hall)			
Altar Servers	Fr. Ariel Bautista		
Bereavement Ministry	Diane Eisenhart	908-347-3065	
	Bob Zappulla	908-268-7360	
Bible Study Coordinator	Marianne Tasy	908-730-0722	
Cub Scouts	Nora Burke Klippstein	908-735-9520	
Eucharistic Ministers	Ed Reitter	908-268-9671	
Girl Scouts	Toni Rice	732-570-5940	
Grocery Certificates/SCRIP	Christine Benson	908-735-6334	
Haiti Project	Deacon Bill Bauer	610-248-7131	
ICC Employment Circle	Michael Szalecki	908-268-6732	
ICC Home & School	Jessica Eisenhart		
Thurs. Scripture Sharing	Ed Reitter	908–268-9671	
Mary Choir	Diane Eisenhart	908-347-3065	
Spirit Alive Choir	Marylu Korkuch	908–236-9103	
Youth Choir	Jamie Parmese	908-328-4116	
Knights of Columbus	Mark Breese	908-625-5908	

(1ST & 3RD Thurs., 7:30 pm, Parish Hall)

Lectors	Gail Baumann	845-283-1087
Mens Cornerstone	Michael Wellons	908-246-3241
Mens Journey	Michael Szalecki	908-268-6732
Mens 50+ Club	John Baka	908-437-0285
Parish Book Club	Carol Curcio	908-735-4463
Prayer Shawl Ministry	Mary Hegarty	908-399-8514
Pre-Cana	Dan & Claudia Roose	908-304-5221
Pro-Life Committee	Tricia Daly	908-328-1268
R.C.I.A.	Dn Mark VanDuynhoven	908-735-7319
Sanctuary Guild	Barbara Sullivan	908-236-6080
Social Concerns/Food Pantry	Peggy Smith	908-730-7101
Stepping Stones	Mary Ellen Berg	908-892-4332
Teen Ministry	Anita Weingart	908-735-7319
Ushers/Greeters	Eric Svendsen	908-500-8313
Weekday Lectors	Ann Standley	908-287-2350
Women's Cornerstone	Kathy Meyer-Crane	908-303-2856

CHOICES MATTER CONFERENCE MARCH 25. 2023

The Diocese of Metuchen's Office of Human Life and Dignity presents "Choices Matter - A Critical

Life Issues Conference which will be held at the St. John Neumann Pastoral Center in Piscataway on Saturday, March 25. An Opening Mass will be celebrated by Bishop James Checchio at 9 AM, the conference will be 10 AM- 3:30 PM. This year's topics/expert speakers are:

A Second Chance at Choice-Abortion Reversal: Dr. George Delgado Choices,

Babies and Dreams: Leah Darrow,

Healing the Walking Wounded: Lisa Rowe

General registration-\$35; student registration-\$15 including lunch The conference features Eucharistic Adoration, exhibits and more. To register visit: https://www.diometuchen.org/choicesmatter Everyone is welcome! Seating is limited.



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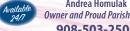
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