



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH

September 28 2025
26th Sunday of Ordinary Time

316 Old Allerton Road
Annandale, NJ 08801

WELCOME TO OUR CHURCH, A CARING AND SHARING CATHOLIC COMMUNITY



26th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"Abraham replied, 'My child, remember that you received what was good during your lifetime while Lazarus likewise received what was bad; but now he is comforted here, whereas you are tormented.'"

PARISH OFFICE

Rev. Keith M. Cervine, Pastor

Hours: Weekdays 9:00AM to 4:00PM

Phone: (908) 735-7319;

Website: <http://iccannandale.org>

Email: parishoffice@iccannandale.org



SCHOOL OFFICE

Constance Fortunato, Principal

Hours: Weekdays 7:30AM-3:30PM

Phone: (908) 735-6334;

Website: www.icsclinton.org;

Email: info@icsclinton.org

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 CHURCH IS OPEN FOR VISITS TO LIGHT A CANDLE OR PRAY DAILY FROM 6:30AM - 7:00PM

CLERGY

Rev. Keith M. Cervine *Pastor*
Rev. Jose Lim *Parochial Vicar*
Deacon Joseph Campbell
Deacon Michael Martini
Deacon Mark van Duynhoven
Deacon William Bauer *(Retired)*

BUSINESS OFFICE STAFF

Michael Szalecki *Business Administrator*
Laura Vitelli *Pastoral Associate*
Parish Advancement
Cemetery Director
Coleen Donaher *Parish Secretary*
Melissa Lagun *Financial Manager*
Mary Hegarty *Administrative Assistant*

PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM

Coleen D'Amato *Parish Catechetical Leader*
Jennifer Senkowski *Assistant Director*
Maryann Procopio *Administrative Assistant*

SCHOOL STAFF

Constance Fortunato *Principal*
Maria Casserly *Office Administration*
Bill Bukowski *Maintenance*

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

Sat. Vigil: 4:30PM
Sunday: 8:00AM, 10:00AM, Noon & 5:00PM
Weekdays: Mon - Fri 7:00AM, 9:00AM
Sat. 9:00AM
Confession: Sat. 11:30 AM - 12; 3:30 - 4:00 PM
or by appointment
Adoration: Fri. after 9 AM Mass to 6:00 PM
Rosary: Wed. at 8:30 AM
Miraculous Medal Novena: Sat. after 9AM Mass

BLESSING OF ANIMALS: FEAST OF ST. FRANCIS



BLESSING OF ANIMALS

Tenebrae hopes to see you all Next Saturday, October 4th at 10:30 AM on the grass field by the rectory, when ICC will have its

annual blessing of animals in honor of the feast of St. Francis (Oct 4th). All kinds of animals are welcome, but please keep them leashed.



walking with purpose

SO MUCH MORE THAN A BIBLE STUDY

Come as you are. All are welcome here.

Make authentic connections with other women |
Refuel and refresh | Learn more about God

Come join us for a unique, women only faith sharing experience. Develop a personal relationship with Jesus Christ through the beauty of the Roman Catholic Church and its teaching.

Walking with Purpose (WWP) Bible studies combine personal study with small group discussion, linking our everyday challenges to solutions given through Scripture. If you desire to grow in your faith—in a supportive community of Catholic women—join us!

- ◆ Weekly on Thursdays beginning **October 9** in the Parish Hall
- ◆ 10:00 am to 12:00 pm
- ◆ **FREE BABYSITTING!**
- ◆ Coffee, tea and breakfast served
- ◆ \$60.00 registration fee for book and shipping. Scholarships available!

Register Online: <https://bit.ly/wwpicc2025>

Questions? Need help with registration? Call, email or text us!

Linda Hunt 973-960-0635

lindaclaire.hunt@gmail.com

Jessica Jaynes 908-240-8383

jajaynes10@gmail.com



THIS WEEK ON ST. MARY'S HILL

Sunday, September 28

Fall Fest: 12 - 4PM!

Regular Mass Schedule: 8 & 10AM, Noon & 5PM
7:00 PM Men's Cornerstone (PH)

Monday, September 29

Regular Mass Schedule: 7 & 9AM
4:30 PM PREP Parent & Student Mtg (Church)

Tuesday, September 30

Regular Mass Schedule: 7 & 9AM
7:00 PM Bible Study (PH)
7:00 PM Choir Practice (Church)

Wednesday, October 1

Regular Mass Schedule: 7 & 9AM
1:00-3:00PM Bereavement Mtg. (Library)
6:00-9:00PM Bereavement Mtg. (Library)

Thursday, October 2

Regular Mass Schedule: 7 & 9AM
7:00 PM K of C Mtg (PH)

Friday, October 3

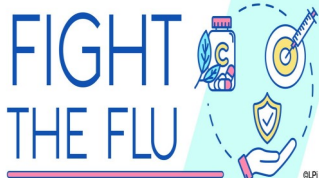
Regular Mass Schedule: 7 & 9AM
9:30 AM - 6 PM Eucharistic Adoration (Church)

Saturday, October 4

Regular Mass Schedule: 9AM & 4:30PM
9:30 AM Miraculous Medal Novena (Church)
9:30 AM Marian Study group (Library)
10:30 AM Blessing of Animals (Rectory Field)
11:30 AM - 12 PM Confession (Church)
3:30 PM - 4 PM Confession (Church)

Sunday, October 5

Right to Life Raffle Ticket Sales After Masses
Regular Mass Schedule: 8 & 10AM, Noon & 5PM
8:00 AM - 12:00 PM K of C Pancake Breakfast
8:00 AM - 12:00 PM Flu Shot Clinic (Library)
2:00 PM - 3:30 PM Life Chain (Flemington Circ.)



FLU SHOTS NEXT SUNDAY!

The Knights of Columbus will be holding a flu shot clinic on **Sunday, October 5th** from **9AM - 1PM** in the Youth Room. Bring your driver's license & insurance card with you.

Are you grieving a significant loss?

You Are Invited

To share with others who have experienced the loss of a dear family member or friend

A Journey Through Grief

9 weekly sessions beginning
October 1
1:00 p.m. or 6:30 p.m.

Immaculate Conception Church
314 Old Allerton Road
Annandale, NJ 08801

Parish Library
(in basement of church)

For more information call
Diane Eisenhart - 908-347-3065
Or
Bob Zappulla - 908-268-7360



FALL FEST

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28TH

12PM TO 4PM

(RAINDATE 10/5)



TRAIN RIDE PUMPKIN PATCH
DINING TENT LIVE BAND

All children ages 9 - 14 are invited to participate in the local Council competition during the Fall Fest! This exciting event, is designed for players to demonstrate their skills in a penalty kick! Each entrant will compete in their own gender and age level.

**SOCCER
CHALLENGE**



WELCOME HOME!

THIS WEEK'S MASSES AND INTENTIONS

Sunday, September 28 (26th. Sunday of OT)

Vigil In honor of 50th Anniversary of
Debbie & Jim Lynch

8 am For our Parishioners

10 am Rosemary Bauer (Mary & Bill Bauer)

12 pm Flo & Paul Desaro (Desaro Family)

5 pm Thomas Coleman (Coleman Family)

Monday, September 29 (Feast of the
Archangels Michael, Gabriel and Raphael)

7am Frances Fanelli (Gildersleeve Family)

9 am Susan Sheets (Tricia Daly)

Tuesday, September 30 (St. Jerome)

7 am Larry Cagno (Laurie Cagno)

9 am Craig A. Highsmith (Marianne Marotta)

Wednesday, October 1 (St. Thérèse of Lisieux)

7 am Concetta Zgoda (Jim Zhoda)

9 am Stephen Young
(Florence C. & Regina H.)

Thursday, October 2 (Holy Guardian Angels)

7 am Ellen McCaffrey (Mom & Dad)

9 am Edwin Buchanan (Evelyn Breheney Glynn)

Friday, October 3

7 am Frances E Fanelli (Liszewski Family)

9 am Intentions of Franscian Daughters of Mary
(Drew, Tracy, Ryan & Connor)

Saturday, October 4 (St Francis of Assisi)

9 am Peter Paul Izzo (Tricia Daly)

Sunday, October 5 (27th. Sunday of OT)

Vigil Jean Fusco (Gerald Fusco)

8 am John Thomas Smith (Melanie McCarroll)

10 am For our Parishioners

12 pm Leon Macanka (Michele Macanka)

5 pm Kevin Meade (Andrew Parise)

A PRAYER ON PRIESTHOOD SUNDAY

In your loving kindness, O good and gracious God, you sent your Son to be our shepherd and guide. Father *n.* continues Christ's ministry of working in the vineyard by sustaining and guiding your holy people. Bless Father *n.* Let your Spirit uphold him always in his service to the people of this parish. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



Pancake Breakfast

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL #6245 PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Next Sunday, **October 5th** K of C hosts Pancake Breakfast from 8:00 AM -12:00 PM in the Parish Hall. The proceeds benefit the various charities and activities supported by the K o C including scholarships for High School seniors. In addition to delicious homemade pancakes, the breakfast features so much more of your morning favorites!



PRO-LIFE CORNER

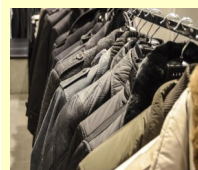
Next Week is Respect Life Sunday, please join us at the **Flemington Life Chain** as we pray for life from

2:00 – 3:30 PM Route 31 to Main Street.

We will be selling **NJ Right To Life Car Raffle** tickets after all Sunday Masses for two weekends beginning next weekend - October 4th & 5th & 11th & 12th. Raffle tickets are \$10 for a chance to win a new car (raffle drawn on November 21)



40 Days for Life: Pray the Rosary from September 24th- November 2nd after all weekday and Saturday morning Masses. There will be group prayer sessions outside the Planned Parenthood in Washington, NJ. Please contact Tricia Daly if you are interested in participating at 908.328.1268



ANNUAL COAT DRIVE NEXT WEEKEND

Our Annual Coat Drive is back! We will be collecting *warm winter coats* that are gently used during the month of October. Please limit your items to winter coats, polar fleeces and vests. **We are not accepting fur coats, lightweight raincoats or leather jackets.** Donations will go to local organizations in need. We will have donation bin set up downstairs in Parish Hall for easy drop off.

Please contact Nancy Weidner directly with any questions: 908.246.7681.

HAPPENINGS ON THE HILL

WELCOME SEMINARIAN, LUKE FULLER

Luke will be joining us during his pastoral assignment while attending Immaculate Conception Seminary at Seton Hall. He will be with us during certain weekends of the Fall and Spring and during Christmas and Easter. His first weekend is this weekend (Sep 27-28) and he is looking forward to seeing you all at our annual Fall Fest. Please pray for him and all our seminarians!



TENEBRAE TALKS

It's almost here! It's almost here! I know that you all get a blessing at every Mass, but us animals for some reason aren't at Masses (I think I am writing a letter to the Bishop about that). However, next week is the feast of one of my favorite saints... St. Francis of Assisi. And on that day, Fr. Keith opens up our parish grounds to bless animals! (he's a good boy, isn't he?) I get to see many old friends and hopefully make some new ones too! I am very excited and hope you are too. So, next Saturday at 10:30, I open my home (the grass field next to the rectory) and look forward to smelling you. I hope that you come to celebrate all of our four-legged friends, oh and I think there are more treats too. Fr. Keith told me that we might even see horses or alpacas, I really hope so... I love all of God's creatures, so bring them too, I have lots of love to show!

Do you know the legend of Gubbio and St. Francis? Gubbio, an Italian town, was being terrorized by a fierce wolf and St. Francis went out of the town to talk to the wolf. He made the Sign of the Cross over the wolf and told him to do no harm to him or the people of Gubbio. St. Francis also noticed that the wolf was hungry, so he asked the people of Gubbio to feed the wolf and in turn the wolf became a protector of the village. After old age the wolf passed away and the citizens of Gubbio mourned his passing. I know that there is a lot of fear, anger and hatred in the world today, maybe we can learn a lesson from St. Francis and try to be peacemakers by engaging one another and praying for them. I know I will try to do my part next week in welcoming you all here. Be a Good Boy!



THANK YOU FROM NJ BLOOD SERVICES

I would like to thank you for hosting another amazing blood drive at Immaculate Conception Church on September 14th. Your support was instrumental in helping to make the blood drive a success.

The drive generated 37 donations. Amazing! We are in critical need and every unit of blood counts. Each unit of blood will be separated into platelets, red cells, and plasma components and transported to local hospitals. I'm happy to say **these 37 units of blood have a potential to save 148 lives in your community!**

We are looking forward to your next blood drive on **Sunday, November 30th**. This blood drive will be in Memory of Jonathan Sekula.

Give the gift of life... donate blood!

CHRISTMAS CONCERT SAVE THE DATE



If you went to Costco recently, then you know Christmas is right around the corner; which means it's time for our Christmas Concert! Father Alphonse

Stephenson and the Orchestra of St. Peter by the Sea will return to St. Mary's Hill for the event that sells out every year. Don't miss out on a beautiful afternoon of getting into the Christmas Spirit. Please save the date: **December 14**. If you'd like to sponsor the event, contact our business office.

GUARDIAN ANGELS

Are you or a loved one homebound, ill, or just in need of a friendly visit? Our newest ministry seeks to bring the Church to you. While we can arrange for Communion or a priestly visit as well, our main goal is keeping you connected to your community of faith. If interested, please call the parish office or Lori Dwyer at 908-812-8807 to arrange for someone to visit.



Remember, you are never completely alone!

STEWARDSHIP ON ST. MARY'S HILL



EMPOWERING LEADERS FOR TOMORROW

Thank you for taking the time to listen to some of our parents last week after Mass as we kicked off our annual Light our Way fund. We are so appreciative of the continued spiritual and financial support of our parishioners that has been apparent over the last 25 years. It is only because of people like you that our school has been as successful as we have through the years. Yet, there is always room to grow and get even stronger in faith and hope as we face the ever-changing challenges the world places before us. Please prayerfully consider giving to our Annual Fund as we continue to empower students and parents with the tools necessary to be leaders of the community based on the tenets of the Catholic Faith here at ICS.

We hope to see you all at the Fall Fest this week!

DONATE ONLINE

Visit www.icsannandale.org/light-our-way



MAIL A DONATION

Use the pre-addressed envelopes distributed at Masses or send a check to:

Immaculate Conception School
Attn: Development Committee
314 Old Allerton Road
Annandale, NJ 08801

EMPLOYER MATCHING

Check if your employer offers matching gifts to educational institutions at <https://ww2.matchinggifts.com/diometuchen>.



From the Pastor's Desk

It is easy to become complacent even as we hear the warnings in the reading from the prophet Amos. As I met with one of the members of our Finance Council this week to discuss five year plans, he mentioned a saying that one of my predecessors loved: "you are either getting better or you are getting worse... so if you are not getting better, then you are probably getting worse." This week is one of my favorite weeks for saints: St. Jerome, St. Francis, St. Therese, the Archangels and the Guardian Angels. All of them either protect us from getting worse or challenge us to do better. St. Jerome stated "Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ." The early Jewish & Christian people struggled just as we do today, heeding their warnings and learning from their mistakes help us to not make similar ones and keep us focused on God. I also placed a quote from St. Therese below that has helped me whenever I feel overwhelmed with the various tasks that have been put on my plate. When I am overly anxious I know it is time for me to take a step back and listen to God rather than relying on myself. As Luke tells us, "we have Moses and the Prophets, listen to them," because if we don't, we probably will not even be persuaded by one who is raised from the dead. So, my brothers and sisters, let's get better together, let us ask for the intercession of these great saints to avoid thinking that we are good enough and cease to grow in love of God and neighbor.

Pax et bonum,
Fr. Keith



AROUND THE DIOCESE

BISHOP CHECCHIO APPOINTED COADJUTOR ARCHBISHOP OF NEW ORLEANS

On Wednesday Rome announced that His Holiness Pope Leo XIV has appointed Bishop James F. Checchio as the Coadjutor Archbishop of New Orleans. A “coadjutor” bishop is appointed to assist the diocesan bishop until his retirement. This means that New Orleans Archbishop Gregory M. Aymond will continue to lead the Archdiocese of New Orleans, until such time that the Holy Father accepts his resignation. When that happens, he will then be automatically succeeded by Archbishop-designate Checchio. In the meantime, Bishop Checchio now becomes the Administrator of the Diocese of Metuchen with our diocesan offices functioning as normal. A date for his departure to the Archdiocese of New Orleans is still being decided. Obviously, when that date becomes known, an announcement will be made for a Mass of farewell. More information can be found on our diocesan website and the website of the Archdiocese of New Orleans. Please pray for Bishop Checchio during this time of transition.

DIOCESE OF METUCHEN
PRESENTS:

FEMININE GENIUS BRUNCH

JUBILEE CELEBRATION OF WOMEN

Come discover God's plan for your ultimate flourishing!

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS:


- Fellowship & Music
- Hot Brunch
- Prayer & Reflection

MAIN SPEAKER:


LISA COTTER
"REVEAL THE GIFT"


OCTOBER 11, 2025
9:30 AM TO 12:30 PM

ST. JOHN NEUMANN PASTORAL CENTER
146 METLARS LANE - PISCATAWAY, NJ




made to magnify





\$30/PERSON

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER, VISIT:
[HTTPS://DIOMETUCHEN.ORG/HUMANLIFEANDDIGNITY](https://diometuchen.org/humanlifeanddignity)




2025 Blue Mass


Cathedral of St. Francis of Assisi
548 Main Street, Metuchen, NJ 08840


Wednesday, October 29, 2025
at 10:30 a.m.

* Law enforcement officials are asked to be seated in the Cathedral by 10:15 a.m. sharp

Bishop James F. Checchio will celebrate the 23rd Annual Blue Mass at the Cathedral of St. Francis of Assisi in Metuchen. Gathered together with local, county, state, and federal law enforcement officials, we will honor and pray for those law enforcement officials of all faiths who live and work in the Diocese of Metuchen.







**South Brunswick
Police Department**
2025 Host Agency



Scan for more Information and to Reserve Attendance
732-243-4581 or visit
www.diometuchen.org/bluemass



DIOCESAN YOUNG ADULT RETREAT

Saturday, October 25th
9:00am - 1:00pm

FEATURING:
GABRIEL CASTILLO



"GabiAfterHours"

**HOLY MASS
EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION
INSPIRING TALKS
LUNCH**

One of the largest independent Catholic content creators in the world.

His presentations, videos, and documentaries have been viewed over 30,000,000 times!

**\$15 PER PERSON
SIGN UP'S
COMING SOON!**

**ST. JOSEPH'S
34 YORKTOWN RD.
HILLSBOROUGH, NJ**

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION SCHOOL

SEE WHAT'S COOKING AT ICS!

Mrs. Fortunato had her own Back to School moment as she and Fr. Jose joined our preschool kids in making some Play-Doh pizza. Fr. Jose used his culinary talents from his time in Rome to show the children how to make a perfect meatball. Something fun is always cooking here on St. Mary's Hill.





ALUMNI COME BACK TO VISIT ICS


On Monday, the public schools had off, but some of our alumni still woke up early to come to morning gathering! This is just another witness to the community we love to foster here at ICS. Just because you graduated, doesn't mean we stop caring about how we can help each other grow. Are you an alum of ICS, we'd love to hear from you and keep you connected!




Our updated outdoor classroom and courtyard is still a work in progress, but it allows students to enjoy the beauty of God's creation and helps us learn how to become good stewards of our world. We think St. Francis would be proud!

DIOCESAN YOUTH NIGHT

Featuring: **GABRIEL CASTILLO**
"GABIAFTERHOURS" 




One of the largest independent Catholic content creators in the world.


His presentations, videos, and documentaries have been viewed over **30,000,000** times!


FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24TH

6:30PM-8:30PM

CATHEDRAL OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

 Talk by Gabriel (Cathedral)

 Eucharistic Adoration (Cathedral)

 Ice cream social (downstairs)

\$10 PER PERSON

SIGN UP'S

COMING SOON!

26TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME





YOUTH GROUP MEETING

TOPIC: OVERCOMING TEMPTATIONS

All teens are invited to the next **Youth Group meeting** on **Sunday, October 5th** after the **5 PM Mass** in Parish Hall. Join us for an evening of fellowship, discussion, and a cozy firepit as we explore the theme of **temptation** and how to resist it in our daily lives. Led by our youth leaders, the evening will be filled with meaningful conversations, snacks, and fun around the fire! The meeting will wrap up by **8 PM**. Come and bring a friend—see you there!

Email Laura Zamrok for any questions
lzamrok@gmail.com

SHARING THE GOSPEL

Today, Jesus told a story about a selfish rich man who ignored God and refused to share with other people. All his money did him no good when he died. He didn't go to heaven. He had his whole life to learn about God, and he could have helped many people with his money. Instead, he forgot about God. He wasted his riches and bought a lot of nice things for himself. Learn from the rich man. Live for God, not for money.

LIVING THE GOSPEL

I will take boxed rice and a can of green peas to the hungry or donate an old coat to the needy.

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

Dear God, help me to share the things you have given me. I love you more than money.



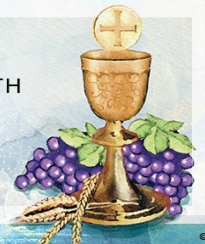
COLOR

Read today's Gospel & color the images.



"...IN THIS WORLD I CANNOT SEE THE MOST HIGH SON OF GOD WITH MY OWN EYES, EXCEPT FOR HIS MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD."

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI



PUZZLE

Connect the dots

