



Parish Mission Statement

We are the people of Immaculate Conception (est. 1860) in Ithaca, NY (Tompkins County), a Parish of the Roman Catholic Church of the Diocese of Rochester. Inclusive and rich in diversity, we joyfully embrace our baptismal call to worship, celebrate sacramental life, nurture spiritual growth, foster lifelong faith formation, minister to others, share our gifts of time, talent and treasure, and affirm the Good News of Jesus Christ. We seek to welcome everyone no matter where they are in their spiritual journey.

~December 25 2011~

Staff Connection...

Some communities celebrate in a very poignant way the mystery of the coming of our God into flesh and blood and time and space in order to save humankind from sin and death. The same wood they use to fashion the crèche at Christmas is taken apart and restructured into a cross at Easter. From the crèche, believers journey through the liturgical year until they come full circle to the cross at Holy Week and Easter; this is the journey that Jesus made, and this is the journey that has led us home to God. There is no false sentimentality here. Whoever sees the Infant in the Christmas crèche also looks upon the crucified adult Christ.

Christmas and this journey from crèche to cross belong to those who recognize the real presence of God in their lives and in the world. Such people understand that God is really present — not simply once upon a long time ago and far away, but here and now. This ever-present God inhabits humble hearts and knows the turmoil and struggles within. This present God supports every human effort at being transparent so that something of God's goodness shines in every believer to offer hope to others.

Recent news articles have reported that more than 70 percent of us admitted we have pretended to be talking on our cell phone so we can avoid personal interaction with others. We sometimes want to disengage so we might not risk being hurt or used or worn out, but the reality of today's feast demands otherwise. Today, as every day, our God is calling and texting and communicating, in every way possible, the assurance that God is with us! This assurance empowers us to be present to others as God is to us, in crèche-moments as well as in cross-moments.

In times past, the divine presence was made known through the prophets. In the fullness of time, God became present and began to speak the language of human existence in Jesus. He communicated God's compassion and forgiveness not in bolts of lightning or claps of thunder, not in fire or in earthquake, but with a human voice.

The Word who is God became flesh to live among us. On one of the last Christmases of his life, Oscar Romero, the martyred archbishop of San Salvador, El Salvador, shared with his people his appreciation of God's presence in the world: "Today, we recall that God's reign is now, in this world, and that Christ has inaugurated the fullness of time. Christ's birth attests that God is now marching with us in history — that we do not go alone, and that our aspiration for peace, for justice, for a reign of divine law, for something holy, is far from earth's realities. Nevertheless, we can hope for all these things, not because we human beings are able to construct that realm of holiness which God's holy words proclaim but because the builder of a reign of justice, of love and peace is already in the midst of us" (*The Violence of Love*, The Plough Pub. Co., Farmington, Pa.: 1988). If each of us could truly grasp this inscrutable mystery and live our lives accordingly, this world could not help but be transformed. This process of transformation began in the crèche and climaxed on the cross. Dec. *Celebration*

On behalf of the staff of Immaculate Conception Church I wish to you all a holy & Happy Christmas & a faith filled & spiritually satisfying New Year. Fr. Leo

MASS SCHEDULE

Monday & Thursday—12:10PM
Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday—7AM
Vigil Mass Saturday—4:30PM
Sunday—8:30 & 10:30AM

George Green Parish Center *** 113 North Geneva Street
Ithaca, NY 14850 *** 607/273-6121
Hours: Mon.—Fri. 8:00AM—4:00PM
Sat. 10AM—4:30PM

SACRAMENTS

BAPTISM: A preparation session is required before the baptism of your child. Please call 273-6121 prior to your due date for an appointment.

RECONCILIATION: Saturday 3—4PM

MARRIAGE: Please call 273-6121 at least 6 months in advance of your anticipated wedding date.

ANONING OF THE SICK: Call 273-6121 to request this sacrament.

HOSPITALIZATIONS

Call 273-6121 if your loved one is in the hospital.