

Immaculate Conception



George Green Parish Center
113 N. Geneva St.
Ithaca, N.Y. 14850
607-273-6121
www.immconch.org

Hours: Mon. – Fri. 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Sat. 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Sun. 8:00 a.m. – Noon

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."

Parish Staff

Fr. Leo Reinhardt – Pastor / Sacramental Preparation ext. 113
Sr. Edna Slyck – Pastoral Associate for RCIA, Liturgy, Evangelization ext. 108
Rich Rasmussen – HS Youth Minister, Administrator of Religious Education ext. 110
Carolann Darling – MS Youth Minister ext. 109
Lynn Kingston – Business Manager ext. 106
Diana Oravec – School Principal 273-2707
Sr. Elise Quigley – Administrative Assistant. ext. 101
Ginny Seacord – Office Manager ext. 102
Gary Vrabel – Music Ministry ext. 111

Contact Information

Immaculate Conception School – 273-2707
<http://schools.dor.org/ic/>
Religious Education Office – 273-6121 ext. 109
Sacramental Preparation – 273-6121 ext.113
IC Inspirational Gift Shop – 273-6363
Calvary Cemetery – 272-5780

Sacrament of Baptism

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

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday afternoon from 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Sacrament of Marriage

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

Anointing of the Sick

Please call 273-6121 to request this sacrament.

Hospitalizations

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

Immaculate Conception Staff Connection

ALL FAMILIES ARE CALLED TO BE HOLY

This weekend we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family. This celebration is not intended primarily as a time to extol family life but as a day to celebrate the fact of the Incarnation. Jesus was raised in a human family because He fully embraced the human condition. We celebrate this feast within the octave of Christmas because it reminds us that Jesus truly shared our human life. He had to grow up and learn about life and God just as we do.

Nevertheless, it is natural that celebrating His family life leads us to reflect on our own families. This is not a day to attack gay families or single-parent families or other nontraditional families. It is not a day to chastise those who are divorced or even those who have remarried without church approval. The purpose of today's liturgy is to help people see how God is at work in their families, no matter how unusual or damaged they may be. On the surface, the "Holy Family" was far from being a "perfect family". Mary conceived out of wedlock; at the age of 12, Jesus "ran away"/was "missing for a short period of time"; Jesus was arrested & crucified as a criminal & his father was not mentioned after the age of 12.

There is a lot of debate today on whether homosexual couples should be allowed to raise children. Personally, I feel that the church is homophobic. The church states that we must respect people who are homosexual, that it is not a sin. So the church is saying you can be what you are but you cannot be who you are sexually. Why? What is needed is mercy: to be able to get into the very skin of someone, to see how they see, to feel how they feel, to strive to understand from the perspective of another. In our failure to do that, we judge others. God wanted to identify with us humans and so took on the human form. We fail to do that, then we judge others.

Why won't the church support civil unions or a relationship that we can label other than "marriage"? A person's sexual orientation does not mean that a person cannot raise a child to be a good, respectable, loving person. We all need to grow in our understanding of what it means to be a member of the HUMAN FAMILY. The more we are willing to grow in love & to be open to others, the more this family can truly grow. Fr. Leo

VANDALISM PREVENTION

If you are parking in the church parking lot, please be sure that your vehicle is securely locked. A car in our lot was recently ransacked and although no serious damage was done and little taken, it is important to be cautious at all times.

BUILDING PEACE WITH JUSTICE

That we are God's family comes through clearly in today's readings. Family creates a community of love, helping each other to grow, and serving those in need. It is a participation in the work of the Lord. It is holy. In today's Gospel, Mary and Joseph model loving concern when they realize that 12 year old Jesus was left behind and not in the caravan.

Reflection: *Today, some families face multiple burdens of poverty, racism, religious and cultural discrimination. New immigrant families can feel unwelcome in our communities and caught in a conflict between cultures. (Follow the Way, USCCB, 1994). Look for ways to reach out in welcome, love, and concern to build up the family of God.*

VOCATION AWARENESS

Today's readings invite us to live holy lives filled with heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; loving one another and forgiving one another, with gratitude in our hearts to God. May the example of the Holy family be an inspiration and an example to all of our families and let us pray that our own holy families will encourage possible vocations to the priesthood and religious life for our local church. If you or someone you know would like to talk to someone about a church vocation, please contact the office of Vocation Awareness at (585) 461-2890 or by e-mail at: vocations@dor.org.

GRANT AWARD CORRECTION

In November of this year we mailed out an appeal letter requesting your support for the newly installed "elevator lift" in Carges Hall and Church. In composing the letter to you we inadvertently listed a major grant contributor as "Sandy and Jay True". However, we wish to correct the statement to read as follows: We are pleased to announce that the Community Foundation's Sandy and Jay True Fund has made a grant of \$10,000 towards this project. We wish to thank The Community Foundation of Tompkins County for their support and generosity.

WORDS OF LIFE

"Yet how many children are neither loved, nor welcomed nor respected! How many of them suffer violence and every kind of exploitation by the unscrupulous! May children always be accorded the respect and attention that are due to them: they are the future and the hope of humanity!" (Pope Benedict XVI, September 26, 2009.)

ADDITION TO CHRISTMAS FLOWER LIST

In Memory of:
 The Brown, Inman & Snyder Families from
 Helen Snyder



EUCCHARISTIC INTENTIONS

MONDAY, December 28

NO MASS

TUESDAY, December 29

7:00 AM Adolph Turco—8th anniversary (req. by Judy Turco)

WEDNESDAY, December 30

7:00 AM John Pearson—2nd anniversary (req. by Ruth Pearson)

THURSDAY, December 31

12:10 PM Patricia Jamarusty (req. by Sam & Joanne Bonanni)

5:30 PM Patricia Grady O'Branski (req. by Joseph Benedict)

FRIDAY, January 1—Feast of Mary Mother of God

10:00 AM John Porcelli (req. by Mary Edsall-Golway)

SATURDAY, January 2

4:30 PM Darlene Adams (req. by Birthright of Ithaca)

SUNDAY, January 3

8:30 AM Deceased Members of the Marguerite & Douglas Stone Family (req. by Pat Darling)

10:30 AM Dale Brewer (req. by Carmen Brewer)

JANUARY HOLY HOUR

Saturday, January 2nd, is First Saturday. Exposition will be after the 4:30 Mass with our Holy Hour at 6:00. The theme for this month's Holy Hour is "The Year of the Priest". Come and pray for our ordained priests, for vocations and for us, as priests because of our Baptismal Promises.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION SHOP

The Immaculate Conception Gift Shop will be closed for the Christmas holiday. The shop will reopen on Monday, January 4th. Be sure to come in early to do your shopping!

ITHACA ELKS LODGE #636 HOOP SHOOT

Sunday, January 3rd at 4:00 PM at the Ithaca College Ben Light Gym. Open to boys and girls ages 8 to 13 years. We ask contestants to please provide proof of age.

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

The next meeting for our Middle School Youth Group will be on Sunday, January 10th from 11:45 AM to 1:15 PM. We will celebrate the new year with a Gift Swap and party. Meet in the After-School Room at Immaculate Conception School. Please bring a wrapped gift, \$5.00 value, and a snack to share. If you have any questions, call Carolann at 273-6121, ext. 109.

BULLETIN ADVERTISER

We have an opening on the back of our bulletin for a new advertiser. If you would like to make your business known to our parishioners, please contact Ginny Seacord at 273-6121.

CONGRATULATIONS TO.....



Jaroslav and Wilda Vanek who celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary this weekend and to John & Catherine Bentkowski who celebrate 56 years.. We ask God to bless them with many more happy years.

THE WEEK AHEAD IN THE PARISH

Sunday, December 27

7:45 AM Praying the Rosary—Church
 8:30 AM Baptism Mass—Church
 9:30 AM Coffee Hour—Carges Hall
 11:30 AM Coffee Hour—Carges Hall

Monday, December 28

1:00 PM Rosary Making—Parish Center

Tuesday, December 29

11:00 AM Food Pantry—Carges Hall

Friday, January 1—Feast of Mary our Mother—Holyday

10:00 AM Holyday Mass

Saturday, January 2

9:00 AM Baptism Preparation Program—Carges Hall
 5:30 PM Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament—Church
 6:00 PM Holy Hour—Church

Sunday, January 3

7:45 AM Praying the Rosary—Church
 11:45 AM Senior High Youth Group—School



SANCTUARY LAMP

Our sanctuary lamp will burn this week in memory of Matt Peters from Tom & Ann Herson & family.

SANCTUARY LAMP

We do have some openings for the sanctuary lamp in January, February and March. Please call the Parish Center if you want to reserve the lamp in memory of a loved one.

TEEN RETREAT

For the first time a team of high school teens from our parish will be coordinating and leading a retreat for other teens of Immaculate Conception and local Catholic parishes. The retreat is planned for the weekend of February 26th-28th. This promises to be an awesome weekend filled with prayer, fun, small group discussion and maybe even a few surprises. We are still in the planning phase of this retreat but if you are interested please contact Rich at 273-6121 ext. 110 or at rasmussen@immconch.org.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Habitat for Humanity of Tompkins/Cortland Counties, a locally run affiliate of Habitat International, is a nonprofit ecumenical organization dedicated to eliminating poverty housing one home at a time. Habitat for Humanity brings together people from all walks of life to build simple, decent affordable homes. Habitat homes are built almost entirely by volunteers, both skilled and novice. The houses are sold to those in need at no profit. Anyone interested in volunteering or offering donations is encouraged to call Habitat for Humanity of Tompkins and Cortland Counties at (607) 898-4148 or to visit the website at: www.tchabitat.com

Angels explained by children: My guardian angels helps me with math, but he's not much good for science! (Henry age 8.)

**Our Offering to the Lord
 December 20, 2009**

Collection 2009 \$9,054
Budgeted (\$10,118 weekly) \$252,950
Actual Collections: wk 25 of FY \$228,752
OVER/(UNDER) to date (\$24,198)

Collection 2008 \$7,125

School Support Fund 2009 \$1,946

School Support Fund 2008 \$1,679

Attendance 2009 756

Attendance 2008 660

We appreciate the suggestion of gifts to Immaculate Conception Church or School in obituary notices as a fitting and respectful way to honor deceased parishioners.



KEEPING THE SPIRIT ALIVE

The Christmas Season give us an opportunity to help with the Catholic Charities in our diocese as well as the migrant families. So far we have **\$31,188.88 or 60.35%** towards our Spirit Alive goal. Thank you for the sacrifices you are willing to make. You are truly being Church for all those whom you do not know personally. **Remember—no contribution is too small—for our ultimate goal is to have 100% participation.** You may go on line to view the video if you missed it or to make a donation at www.dor.org. **May God continue to bless and your families for your outstanding generosity!**

IC BOOSTER CLUB TICKETS....

are now available at the Parish Center or Immaculate Conception School Office (\$25.00). Each ticket gives you 71 chances to win amounts from \$100 to \$500. Tickets make great "stocking stuffers". All proceeds go to help support our Immaculate Conception School. The first drawing is on Sunday, February 8th.

CONGRATULATIONS TO...

parishioner Angie Torchia who recently won an award from the city of Ithaca for the beautification work she did to her home on Park Place. She was recognized for helping to improve the neighborhood in which she resides. Good work, Angie!

FEAST OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

Thursday, December 31st
 5:30 PM Anticipated Mass
 for Holyday

Friday, January 1
 Mass 10:00 AM

