

Immaculate Conception Church

Parish Mission Statement

Immaculate Conception Catholic Church celebrates the Eucharist and proclaims the gospel – in worship, through our love of God and for each other, and with our ministry to the marginalized. We journey together in our faith, united by our trust in Christ's love and mercy and the powerful intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

George Green Parish Center
113 North Geneva Street
Ithaca, NY 14850
Hours: Mon. – Fri.
8:00AM – 4:00PM
Closed for Lunch
12 - 1 pm

**JOIN US FOR
OUR LITURGIES**

MASS SCHEDULE

Monday & Thursday
12:10PM

Tuesday, Wednesday &
Friday
7AM

Saturday
8:30AM

Vigil Mass Saturday
4:30PM

Sunday
8:30 & 10:30AM

DECEMBER 1, 2019 1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Our Vision:
To be a community of God's
Love and Service

PARISH STAFF

Fr. Augustine Chumo Pastor
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607- 273-6121

Dan Hurley Deacon
Dan.Hurley@dor.org 585-319-8205

Calvary Cemetery 272-5780
638 Five Mile Drive, Ithaca
Mike Moravec

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 2:30P – 4PM

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

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

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

CONTACT INFORMATION

Main Office 607/273-6121

Fax: 607/273-0185

www.immconch.org

iimmacul@dor.org

www.facebook.com/immconch

BULLETIN REQUESTS:

E-mail: iimmacul@dor.org
no later than Mondays @ 4PM

Next Sunday—December 8, 2019 Second Sunday of Advent Second Collection—Feast of the Immaculate Conception

CMA APPEAL

AROUND THE AREA

Goal	\$57,152
Current status:	43 Families
Percentage	12.35%
	\$6,546.50

Divine Mercy Movie showing in Ithaca *Divine Love and Mercy*, the film of St. Faustina, is returning for a second Fathom Event showing at Regal Cinemas Ithaca at 7 p.m. on December 2nd. The docudrama follows the incredible call of St. Faustina to religious life and the healing effects of her message of Divine Mercy on countless people around the world. To view the movie trailer, get ticket information, etc. see: <https://www.fathomevents.com/events/faustina->

YOUTH AND FAMILY CORNER

Family Christmas Social

Attention parents, children and young teens. You are invited to take part in a fun-filled Christmas Social event on **Saturday, December 7th** from **6p-8:30pm** in Parish Hall (basement of the church). There will be food, games, movies, Christmas cookies and more. We hope you can all join us for this fun filled evening. For more information you can contact Rich at the parish office.



Christmas Flowers & Decorations

If you wish to contribute (\$10) toward the purchase of Christmas flowers & decorations in memory of a loved one, please contact the Parish Office, 273-6121, or fill out and return the special marked blue envelope now available in the rear of church. These do not automatically renew, so you must contact the office if you wish to have your intention included.

Deadline: December 16, 2019

THE NEED TO KNOW



- The Feast of the **Immaculate Conception** this year is transferred to **Monday, December 9**, with Masses at 12:10 and 7:00pm. It is NOT a Holy Day of Obligation.
- Parish Council members will be present at the December 8 coffee hours after 8:30 am and 10:30 am masses to listen to parishioners' concerns or questions. The coffee hour is sponsored by the Mercy Associates and the Hospitality Committee.

2020 MASS INTENTIONS

Parishioners are now able to request Mass Intentions and the Sanctuary Lamp for 2020. Each family is allowed **3** Intentions (1 for a weekend, 1 for 12:10pm and 1 for 7:00am). Mass Donations are \$10, and the Sanctuary Lamp (Sunday –Saturday) is \$20. Contact the office, 607-273-6121.

WINTER WEATHER GUIDELINES

If Ithaca City Schools **CLOSE** due to winter weather, the **Office** will also **CLOSE**. 7:00am Masses will be cancelled, however 12:10pm Masses will still be held. Check the **MyParish app** as all updates will be listed. You can download the parish app by going to the app store on your cell phone and search for **MyParish App**. Once it is loaded, search for Immaculate Conception Church, Ithaca. Click on the parish and you are all set.



SPECIAL CELEBRATIONS

Happy Birthday

Therese Marchell Antoinette Iacovelli
Dorothy Buechel Kerman Glaser
Nora Nazer Barbara Gainey
Blaise Ayers (belated November 22nd)

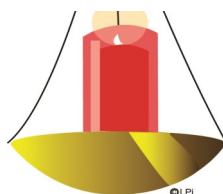
Happy Anniversary

James & Barbara Manning

IN APPRECIATION

- To the ladies who spent the day folding, labelling and mailing the Advent-Newsletter.

OUR SANCTUARY LAMP
WILL BURN THIS WEEK IN MEMORY OF
JAMES CLEARY
FROM JANET CLEARY



AREA SPIRITUAL OPPORTUNITY

Our area Centering Prayer Group meets at 7:00 pm on the second Monday of the month at St. Catherine of Siena. All are welcome. For information, contact Mariette Geldenhuys at mariette@geldenhuyslaw.com.

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, December 1

8:30AM For Parishioners

10:30AM Sara & Steve Zifchock from Jim Zifchock

Monday, December 2

12:10PM Yolanda Lucatelli from Phil & Loretta Goss

Tuesday, December 3

7:00AM James Cleary from Janet Cleary

Wednesday, December 4

7:00AM Mary Louise McManus from Mary Edsall-Golway

Thursday, December 5

12:10PM James & Barbara Manning (55th Wedding Ann.) from the Family

Friday, December 6

7:00AM Athaleen & Frank Cammuso from Frank & Ngoc Cammuso

Saturday, December 7

8:30AM Gary Jaynes from Josephine Jaynes & Family

4:30PM John Rudan, Jr. (Living) from the 4:30 Ushers

Sunday, December 8

8:30AM Dorothy & Carl Yengo and Jane Martin from Molly & Angelo DiGiacomo

10:30AM For Parishioners

THIS WEEK

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3

5:15P—ADULT CHOIR-CH

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4

3:00P—PIETRA FITNESS-PH

5:30P—CONTEMP. GRP-CH

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5

6:00P—PARISH COUNCIL-PH

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6

7:30A—1ST FRIDAY ADORATION-CH

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7

10:00A—1ST PENANCE PREP-PH

3:00P—HOLY HOUR EXPOSITION-CH

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8

COFFEE HOUR AFTER 8:30 AM

AND 10:30 AM MASSES

1:00 P.M. COMBINED HS & MS YOUTH

GROUPS WITH SERVICE TEAM-PH

SWAHILI CORNER

Kipindi cha maajilio = Advent season

Furahia kipindi cha maajilio = Enjoy the season of Advent

Amani kwako = Peace to you



PRAYER REQUESTS

- For people dealing with chronic illnesses
- For children battling cancer and for their families
- For the unity of our nation as election season picks up momentum
- For victims of natural disasters, in our country and around the world
- For missionaries working in the missions that their labors may bear fruit
- For our diocese as we go through tough times
- For our parish outreach initiatives that they may bring people closer to Christ
- For the senior members of our parish and for those who care for them
- For the unemployed/underemployed
- That every country take the measures necessary to prioritize the future of the very young, especially those who are suffering (*Pope Francis' prayer intention for the month of December*)

FROM THE SERVICE TEAM



Giving Tree Program: The Giving Tree is up and tags are available. You may take tags of your choosing to support the following programs: DSS, Birthright and Cops, Kids and Toys. More information about each program is posted near the tree. We kindly appreciate the return of gifts to the Church, unwrapped with the tag attached. Thank you for your generosity and support.

AREA EVENTS

Share the Warmth: Winter Collection

Catholic Charities' annual Winter Outerwear Collection Drive is now beginning. Bins are available at the entrances to Church and around the area to collect your donations of coats, gloves, mittens, hats, scarves and boots.

Addressing Racism: Talk and Act

Educating ourselves about how racism works is one important step to opposing it. A 3-session class called "Talking Circles on Race & Racism" on Thursdays, January 16, 23, 30 is offered at Immaculate Conception. For more information, contact Laurie: 272-5062x12.

1st Sunday of Advent: "So too, you also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come." —Mt 24:44

OFFERTORY AND FINANCE NOVEMBER 24, 2019

Plate	\$
Catholic University	\$
Attendance	



Pastoral Parish Council Briefs

November 2019

Our Pastoral Parish Council (PPC) met on Thursday, November 7th with a packed agenda. Here are some of the highlights from our meeting.

We opened the meeting with a guest presentation from staff of the new Open Doors English program. Open Doors provides English as a second language training for 100 members of our community who have recently immigrated to our country. The program is taught by a dedicated group of professional teachers and volunteers in the First Presbyterian Church. For more information, call 607-319-5051.

One of our PPC objectives this year is to take steps to maintain a safe and secure church facility for our parish members. Video surveillance cameras are being installed this fall. The cameras will help to serve as a deterrent to theft and assist authorities in investigation. We will also be working with the Ithaca City Police Department on a security audit of the building grounds and bringing in safety training to our parish.

At the direction of Father Chumo, our parish Building & Grounds Committee (BGC) has been working on repair and restoration planning for our church. PPC received and discussed an initial report from the BGC on the building exterior. Investing in capital improvements of our facility will help to ensure our church will remain pristine for future generations of parishioners.

Perhaps the most joyful agenda item of our meeting was our discussion of our youth parishioners. Rich Rasmussen is once again leading a group of 8 parish youths and 7 adult volunteers to the National Catholic Youth Conference in Indianapolis Nov. 21-23. PPC member Liam Cooper is one of the youths joining Rich for this incredible spiritual experience for Catholic teenagers. Rich also talked about the success of our youth groups. Rich graciously praised the contributions of the volunteers who serve our youth, proclaiming, “We have the finest assembly of youth group volunteers in the Diocese, if not the country!”

Our next Pastoral Parish Council meeting will be Thursday, December 5th starting at 6pm in Parish Hall. Members of our parish are always welcome to visit and join us in the discussion of matters important to our parish.

Sunday, Dec 01, 2019

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Twenty-five reasons to smile

It's Advent! Jesus is coming soon. Colored lights dance against the dark. Carols exalt us (and the "Jingle Bells" dogs make us laugh). John Lennon, who imagined a world without religion, couldn't imagine one without Christmas. Holiday cards keep on coming. Tinsel. Evergreens. Angels. Lighting family Advent wreaths. Sleigh bells. Generous hearts. Visitors. Parties. Cookies with sprinkles. Sparkly sweaters. Fuzzy mittens. Manger scenes. Nativity plays. Flash mobs singing "Messiah" at the mall. Children's faces. Reconciliations. The hope of peace on earth. Good will within reach everywhere.

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 2:1-5; Romans 13:11-14; Matthew 24:37-44 (1). "At an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come."

Monday, Dec 02, 2019

ADVENT WEEKDAY

Warming up to Advent

Today is the first weekday in Advent, and the readings underscore the season's sense of warmth and joyful anticipation. As our days grow cooler, Isaiah provides an image of God protecting the Israelites from the elements: "the Lord's glory will be shelter and protection." The psalm, too, trumpets a sense of joy and protection under God: "Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord." Then the gospel brings us an Advent sense of happy expectation, with Jesus envisioning the faith-filled centurion at the heavenly banquet. Today, as you slip on a sweater to fight a chill, or share a meal with others, take heart in being part of the worldwide Christian community beginning our Advent season of warmth and joyful anticipation.

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 4:2-6; Matthew 8:5-11 (175). "Many will come from the east and the west, and will recline with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob at the banquet in the kingdom of heaven."

Tuesday, Dec 03, 2019

ADVENT WEEKDAY

Welcome everybody

How can you live out Catholic teaching to defend the sacred life and dignity of every precious human being? In lots of way, of course. But one for today is the observance of International Day of Persons with Disabilities, promoted by the United Nations since 1992. Think about how you can support the rights and well-being of persons with disabilities and help include them "in every aspect of political, social, economic, and cultural life." Promote awareness and celebrate their achievements; and if you yourself have a disability, celebrate your own achievements as well! Order an event pack for your organization at idpwd.org.

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 11:1-10; Luke 10:21-24 (176). "Blessed are the eyes that see what you see."

Wednesday, Dec 04, 2019

MEMORIAL OF JOHN DAMASCENE, PRIEST, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

Come to your senses

Saint John of Damascus is famous for opposing the Iconoclast heresy of the 700s. Iconoclasts said it was wrong to venerate sacred images of any sort, but John wrote three different treatises to explain why ours is essentially a "smells and bells" religion, honoring the Incarnation by using all five senses God gave to both us and Jesus. "When we see the crucifix, we remember Christ's

saving Passion," he wrote. "We fall down to worship not the piece of wood, but the One who is imaged." And when one of John's mentors berated him for writing hymns—saying they weren't a worthy spiritual pursuit—it is said that the Blessed Mother berated the mentor in a dream! Be sure to enjoy the sights, sounds, and tastes of this holiday season—remembering our Creator, who asks that we don't love abstractly but "in the flesh."

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 25:6-10a; Matthew 15:29-37 (177). "They all ate and were satisfied."

Thursday, Dec 05, 2019

ADVENT WEEKDAY

Can you lend a hand?

December 5 is the day set aside by the United Nations General Assembly as International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development. It is a long title but its purpose is something we all understand: to encourage governments to recognize volunteer efforts that promote development and peace. Advent is a season of hope, and volunteers by their generosity of hearts and hands give us reason to hope for this world. Say a prayer of gratitude for volunteers throughout our world whose sacrifices promote the common good. Ask for grace to be a sign of hope today.

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 26:1-6; Matthew 7:21, 24-27 (178). "None of those who cry out, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of God but only the one who does the will of my Father."

Friday, Dec 06, 2019

MEMORIAL OF NICHOLAS, BISHOP

Protect the innocent

In every household where children live, shoes could be lined up outside the door this morning, full of candy and tiny treats. This brief preview of Christmas is mercifully given to assuage the plaintive query, "Will we ever get there?" From spare biographical details about Saint Nicholas, bishop of Myra in the fourth century, marvelous legends have arisen. All underline his protection of children, so let's invoke him during an era of terrible child exploitation. In his honor, place the National Human Trafficking Hotline in your phone or on your fridge: 888-373-7888. Call if anything seems amiss.

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 29:17-24; Matthew 9:27-31 (179). "But a very little while . . ."

Saturday, Dec 07, 2019

MEMORIAL OF AMBROSE, BISHOP, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

Uproot income inequality

Saint Ambrose (c. 340–397) was the bishop of Milan and one of the four original doctors of the church along with Augustine, Jerome, and Gregory the Great. Ambrose taught the necessity of being united with the poor. He said that charitable giving was not an act of generosity but rather a restitution of resources that God had originally provided to all but have been taken over by the rich and powerful. Speaking in the United States in 2014, Pope Francis said that income inequality in our society was the "root of all social evil." Catholics need to fight against income inequality.

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 30:19-21, 23-26; Matthew 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8 (180). "His heart was moved with pity for them because they were troubled and abandoned, like sheep without a shepherd."

Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow—a day at a time



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Sunday, Dec 08, 2019

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Back to the garden

Among the cards arriving daily are the usual crèche scenes, angels, wise men, shepherds, and Bethlehem stars like searchlights against the night. Truth be told, there are plenty of Santas and reindeer, snowfolk, and cute animals too. But somewhere is the odd pairing of a lion and a lamb snuggling together—which never happens in Isaiah’s prophecy, by the way. The lamb hosts the wolf, and the calf dines with the lion, but no matter. The idea is that the world’s original harmony is achievable—if we all retract our claws and keep our teeth to ourselves. Be a peacemaker!

TODAY’S READINGS: Isaiah 11:1-10; Romans 15:4-9; Matthew 3:1-12 (4). *“The calf and the young lion shall browse together, with a little child to lead them.”*

Monday, Dec 09, 2019

SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY [PATRONAL FEAST OF THE U.S.A.]

Mary was no angel

Since her very conception, Mary of Nazareth has been named “immaculate,” “pure,” “unblemished.” And rightfully so for she was born without sin and remained so throughout her life. Yet because of this pristineness, we sometimes think Mary was untouched by the messiness of everyday life. But Mary was a flesh-and-blood human and a strong, loving woman. She experienced the beauty and struggles of family and village life. She faced poverty and a refugee’s life, persecution and heart-breaking sorrow when her son was tortured and killed. With Mary as your companion, take time this Advent to peer into your heart and see what beautiful, messy, tender, and broken things you are holding.

TODAY’S READINGS: Genesis 3:9-15, 20; Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12; Luke 1:26-38 (689). *“God chose us to be holy and unblemished.”*

Tuesday, Dec 10, 2019

HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

Embrace the lost sheep

In today’s gospel, Jesus elevates the importance of the single “lost sheep.” It’s worth leaving the 99 on their own for a time because the lost one has enormous value. Catholic social teaching hinges on the idea that every single human being has infinite worth, including our own lost sheep. Today those who are “outside the fold” include addicts, the homeless, prisoners, refugees, the mentally ill—even our most unlovable relative. Who are the lost sheep in your community? Can you take one small step today to affirm their dignity and worth?

TODAY’S READINGS: Isaiah 40:1-11; Matthew 18:12-14 (182). *“Will he not leave the ninety-nine in the hills and go in search of the stray?”*

Wednesday, Dec 11, 2019

MEMORIAL OF DAMASUS I, POPE

Stick with a church that sticks around

If you love singing “Adeste Fideles” and “Gloria in Excelsis Deo” at this time of year, you can probably thank Pope Damasus I for that. As the bishop of Rome during the fourth century, he championed many aspects of the faith that persist to this day— aspects that have helped ensure the cohesiveness and longevity of Catholic practice. These include: a common language (Latin) for

worship, an official list of books for the Bible, the veneration of Christian martyrs, the denunciation of certain heresies, and the primacy of the bishop of Rome as pope. His actions laid down some of the first stones of a church that Vatican II saw as having an “eternal foundation” based on Christ.

TODAY’S READINGS: Isaiah 40:25-31; Matthew 11:28-30 (183). *“Have you not heard? The Lord is the eternal God.”*

Thursday, Dec 12, 2019

FEAST OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

Of the people and for the people

Our Lady of Guadalupe is probably the most iconic image and story of Mary in North America. One reason for this overwhelming devotion is that she appeared in the form of an indigenous woman to an indigenous man—Indians being the lowest tier of Mexican society both then and now. That God’s own mother could be of the poor and for the poor continues to be a powerful message with strong implications about how we treat one another. In your prayer today, reflect on whose image Mary might take on if she were to appear in your community today.

What would her face look like? And what might she ask of us?

TODAY’S READINGS: Zechariah 2:14-17 or Revelation 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Luke 1:26-38 or 1:39-47 (690A). *“A great sign appeared in the sky, a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars.”*

Friday, Dec 13, 2019

MEMORIAL OF LUCY, VIRGIN, MARTYR

See with new eyes

The music of Lucinda Williams is beautiful, simple, and challenging. In 2011, she released the song “Blessed,” a litany to remind us that even in the challenges of life, we are blessed. She sings, for example, “We were blessed by the blind man / Who could see for miles and miles.” We have a patron saint for people who are blind, Saint Lucy. Though tortured, blinded, and martyred, she is remembered as a woman of great vision for her love of Christ and poor people. How can you see “miles and miles” through a challenge you face?

TODAY’S READINGS: Isaiah 48:17-19; Matthew 11:16-19 (185). *“I, the LORD, your God, teach you what is for your good, and lead you on the way you should go.”*

Saturday, Dec 14, 2019

MEMORIAL OF JOHN OF THE CROSS, PRIEST, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

The change we need

Here’s a simple truth: People resist change. The greater the change, the greater the resistance, generally speaking—even when the change is long overdue and much for the better. John of the Cross embraced the Carmelite reform initiated by his spiritual sister, the visionary Carmelite Saint Teresa of Avila. However, a group of his fellow Carmelites strongly opposed the reform and went so far as to imprison John and treat him harshly. He persevered, and even wrote most of his famous *Spiritual Canticle* while jailed. Try to see unfair treatment or setbacks that come your way as an opportunity for spiritual growth.

TODAY’S READINGS: Sirach 48:1-4, 9-11; Matthew 17:9a, 10-13 (186). *“I tell you that Elijah has already come, and they did not recognize him but did to him whatever they pleased.”*

Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow—a day at a time



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