

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 15, 2019 3RD 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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Erika Linsdell
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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.

ANOIDING 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 22, 2019 Fourth Sunday of Advent

CMA APPEAL

Goal	\$57,152
Current status: 78 Families Percentage 30.96%	\$12,311.50

APPRECIATION

- Many thanks for the generous response to the outreach initiatives by our faith community
- Thanks to the youth and their families for their help with sorting and filling the Harvest Bags.
- To our Resurrection choir for their ministry to bereaved families
- To the good people of St. Pius X for praying for our faith community during the week of December 7-15

YOUTH AND FAMILY CORNER

First Reconciliation

This weekend, 8 young people from our parish received the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time. They are:

Jack Brennan
Isabella Cecala
Isabella Fucile
Will Schmidt
Elijah Sieverding
Katija Sosic
Niko Sosic
Noah Steinorth

Congratulations to each of you! May you each be an example of the same forgiveness and mercy that is granted to each of us through the Sacrament of Reconciliation.



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 Food Pantry will be **CLOSED INDEFINITELY** due to environmental cleaning. We are working diligently to update the process.
- Bulletin submission: All articles for the rest of December bulletins **MUST** be submitted **NO LATER** than **FRIDAY** of each week.
- **Christmas Caroling:** Meet at the church on **Sunday, December 22 at 2:00 pm** to sing Christmas carols for the sick and the homebound. All are welcome—just bring your voice and good cheer!

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.



NOVENA

Please continue praying the St. Andrew Advent/Christmas Novena, for your personal Spirituality, and for fellow Parishioners, until Christmas Eve.

“Hail, and blesse be the hour and moment at which the Son of God was born of then most pure Virgin Mary, at midnight, in Bethlehem in piercing cold. In that hour vouchsafe, O my God, to hear my prayers and grant my desires. (Intentions). Through the merits of Our Savior Jesus Christ and of His most Blessed Mother. Amen.”

2020 MASS INTENTIONS & LAMP

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.

AREA EVENTS

The next monthly **Stand Out For Life** takes place on Saturday, December 28th, from 9AM to 1030 AM, across the street from Planned parenthood, 620 W. Seneca Street. Peaceful, prayerful, public witness for the protection of unborn children, their mothers and fathers. Come and pray with us. Contact Carolann 607-351-6668.
January Stand out for Life Saturday, January 25th, 9 AM to 1030 AM. All are welcome!

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, December 15

8:30AM Sara Komaromi from Bea Ciaschi & Family
10:30AM Dorothy Carreiro from Barbara J. Colbert

Monday, December 16

10:30AM Harry Ellsworth (@Caryuga Ridge) from Cayuga Ridge Volunteers
12:10PM Robert Colbert, Sr. from the Colbert Family

Tuesday, December 17

7:00AM Philip Ruocco from Sonny & Mary Camobrecco

Wednesday, December 18

7:00AM Ronald Ronsvalle from Pat Brazo

Thursday, December 19

12:10PM Rena Anderson from Nora Anderson

Friday, December 20

7:00AM Anna Biskup from Cathy Olds

Saturday, December 21

8:30AM Carolyn Romani from Frank & Theresa Letizia
4:30PM Albert, Tami & Linta Turco from Orlando Turco

Sunday, December 22

8:30AM For Parishioners
10:30AM DM of the Alcolea-Vila Family from the Alcolea Family

THIS WEEK

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15

11:45A—PAGEANT REHEARSAL-CH
11:45A—HS YTH GRP-YR
2:30P—MS YTH GRP-YR
5:00P—FAMBRE-YR

MONDAY, DECEMBER 16

10:30A—CAYUGA RIDGE MASS

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17

5:15P—ADULT CHOIR-CH

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18

3:00P—PIETRA FITNESS-YR
5:30P—CONTEMP. GRP-CH

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19

4:00P—MCGRAW HOUSE SERVICE
7:00P—LITURGY COMMITTEE-PC

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22

11:45A—PAGEANT REHEARSAL-CH
1:00P—EXTRA CHOIR REHEARSAL-CH

MERRY CHRISTMAS!



A NOTICE REGARDING THE CHRISTMAS SERVICES

December 24: Christmas Eve
Tuesday 4:00pm (with Christmas Pageant)
Choral Concert at 9:30pm 10:00pm Mass

December 25: Christmas Day
Wednesday 10:30am

Daily Masses during the week are at their usual time.
There is no Vigil Mass for the Solemnity of Mary

January 1, 2020: Solemnity of Mary
Wednesday 9:00am

SWAHILI CORNER

Ukufu kwa Mungu Juu Mbinguni = Glory to God in the
Highest heaven

Na Amani duniani kwa watu wenye mapenzi mema=

And peace to people of good will

Tunakusifu, tunakuabudu, tunakutukuza = We praise you, we adore you,
we glorify you.

This is your little preamble for Christmas. Practice! Practice!

Asante sana, Amani kwenu!



PRAYER REQUESTS

- For peace and security during this festive season
- For quick recovery of the ill and the hospitalized parishioners
- For the repose of the soul of Joe Zichettella
- For our diocese: for healing and for a steadfast faith in God as we go through bankruptcy and reorganization process
- For the poor and the homeless of our city
- For those who have requested our prayers for their specific needs

*A Sincere **Thank You** to the family of
Joseph Zichettella
for remembering
Immaculate Conception Church
in the obituary of their loved one.*

OFFERTORY AND FINANCE DECEMBER 8, 2019

Plate	\$7,507
Immaculate Conception	\$1,282
Attendance	503

*"Christmas began in the heart of God.
It is complete only when it reaches
the heart of all."*

Sunday, Dec 15, 2019

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

What are we waiting for?

Some people make the incredible claim that, 2,000 years ago, God's spoken Word became flesh and blood. This incarnate Word lived and served and saved—not by rising to tremendous power, but by dying and rising to new life. A lot rides on John the Baptist's question to Jesus: Are you the one? If not you, then who? If Jesus is the one, trusting in him means embracing a startling trajectory of service and surrender in a world of upward striving. It will turn our own lives inside out. What does it cost you to say: "Jesus is Lord"?

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11 (7). *"Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?"*

Monday, Dec 16, 2019

ADVENT WEEKDAY

Invest in the teachings

Magisterium is a mighty big word that means a lot to Catholics. The word derives from the Latin for "teacher." It refers to the sacred deposit of faith, which includes both scripture and tradition, that's been entrusted to the church. And it is the source of the church's authority to interpret this deposit of faith, which has been divinely revealed by Christ, the "Word made flesh." What an immense gift from God, for all of us to be shown so much. Be faithful to it.

TODAY'S READINGS: Numbers 24:2-7, 15-17a; Matthew 21:23-27 (187). *"By what authority are you doing these things? And who gave you this authority?"*

Tuesday, Dec 17, 2019

ADVENT WEEKDAY

Soon and very soon

Finally, like a long exhalation during the final week before Christmas, we pray the "O Antiphons," which give us different ways to image the long-awaited Messiah. Some of the more colorful names are: Wisdom, Root of Jesse's stem, Key of David, Radiant Dawn. Praying with one each day unites us to the universal church over many centuries. Check out YouTube for a video that provides historical background on the O Antiphons. Take a moment to watch it as part of your Advent observation.

TODAY'S READINGS: Genesis 49:2, 8-10; Matthew 1:1-17 (193). *"Of her was born Jesus, . . . called the Christ."*

Wednesday, Dec 18, 2019

ADVENT WEEKDAY

Prelude to Nativity

Today is International Migrants Day, reminding us that all biblical people, including the Holy Family, were obliged to roam to survive. The mystery of the Incarnation, Christ in us, is extended to all people, especially those who have been driven from their homelands by violence and crushing poverty, and who stand at our border seeking help. Should we wall them out or extend a hand in friendship and solidarity? All of us need rescuing! "O Leader of the House of Israel, giver of the Law to Moses on Sinai: Come to rescue us with your mighty power!"

TODAY'S READINGS: Jeremiah 23:5-8; Matthew 1:18-25 (194). *"Behold, the virgin shall be with child and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means "God is with us."*

Thursday, Dec 19, 2019

ADVENT WEEKDAY

Lord, come and save us

"O Root of Jesse's stem, sign of God's love for all his people: Come to save us without delay!" Today is the third day of the church's week of O Antiphons, used at evening prayer to count down the final days of Advent. Each gives a different depiction of the Messiah; each captures the longing of a people yearning to be saved. Today's imagery comes from Isaiah 11:1, where God establishes the House of David from beleaguered beginnings: "There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots." David, the youngest son of Jesse, is as improbable a king as the Christ Child will be. If you haven't been praying the O Antiphons this week, it's not too late to start; nor is it too late to decorate a Jesse Tree, based on the same Isaiah verse.

TODAY'S READINGS: Judges 13:2-7, 24-25a; Luke 1:5-25 (195). *"Do not be afraid, Zechariah, because your prayer has been heard."*

Friday, Dec 20, 2019

ADVENT WEEKDAY

Make room at the inn

There's a special Christmas season novena—that is, nine days of prayer—that commemorates the nine months of Mary's pregnancy with Jesus, as well as her journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem, and it is done in the nine days leading up to his birthday. Called Las Posadas, which means "lodging," it is celebrated by many Spanish-speaking cultures with re-enactments of Joseph and Mary (often with entourage and even a donkey!) knocking on neighbors' doors seeking a "place to stay." A party usually ensues. Remember all those in the world who are journeying to find shelter for their children, and work to make our communities more open to them. In fact, celebrate their presence!

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 7:10-14; Luke 1:26-38 (196). *"O Key of David, opening the gates of God's eternal kingdom: Come and free the prisoners of darkness!"*

Saturday, Dec 21, 2019

MEMORIAL OF PETER CANISIUS, PRIEST, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

Common ground is high ground

Peter Canisius (1521-97), a Dutch Jesuit priest who was a contemporary of Saint Ignatius, was a learned and capable scholar who started many Jesuit colleges. Peter had a gift for making theological doctrine understandable. To that end, he wrote three catechisms that helped common folk and children understand the teachings of the church and ground their faith. Peter's ability to listen in working with non-Catholics helped him respect differences and seek common ground. We ask Saint Peter Canisius to help us listen to those with whom we differ and seek common ground.

TODAY'S READINGS: Song of Songs 2:8-14 or Zephaniah 3:14-18a; Luke 1:39-45 (197). *"O Radiant Dawn, splendor of eternal light, sun of justice: Come and shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death."*

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



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Sunday, Dec 22, 2019

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Finding our place in Joseph's story

You had every intention of doing it. You'd thought it all out, weighed pros and cons, and made your decision. It was reasonable, practical. Family and friends were behind you all the way. But then something happened. A dream, a phone call, a look from a stranger on the bus—something that maybe wasn't even related to your decision, but it spoke to you. It said: Don't do that, do this instead. And all these years later, you can't even explain it to yourself. Only that you trusted your intuition, and you'd do the same thing today.

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 7:10-14; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-24 (10). *"Joseph her husband . . . decided to divorce her quietly. Such was his intention when, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream."*

Monday, Dec 23, 2019

MEMORIAL OF JOHN OF KANTY, PRIEST

Rising above sin and division

Today is the memorial of John of Kanty. A 15th-century Polish scholar and priest, he was known for his simple lifestyle and generosity to the poor. He had enemies, however, who schemed to have him demoted from professor at the University of Krakow to parish priest (a job he felt unprepared for). It took him years to win over his flock, but eventually he did, and eventually he was reinstated as a professor. Sin and division within the church caused harm to John of Kanty, yet he persisted in living a good life. Take a moment to draw hope from people you know who persist in living generously and lovingly in today's imperfect church.

TODAY'S READINGS: Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24; Luke 1:57-66 (199). *"O Emmanuel, our King and Giver of Law: Come to save us, Lord our God!"*

Tuesday, Dec 24, 2019

ADVENT WEEKDAY

Light it up!

The longest night of the year took place on the winter solstice, December 21, and just a few days later, we await the coming of the Light of the World. Tonight the anticipation reaches its peak as people gather to celebrate—in some cases with very bright festivities indeed! Take Las Parrandas de Remedios, Cuba's famous fireworks festival on Christmas Eve. *Parranda* is a street party, and travel guides will tell you this is one not to miss. Make your own fireworks of joy—in your church, home, and heart—because your Savior is born.

TODAY'S READINGS: Morning: 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Luke 1:67-79 (200). *"The dawn from on high shall break upon us, to shine on those who dwell in darkness."*

Wednesday, Dec 25, 2019

SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS)

Hope is born!

Saint Augustine wrote these beautiful words describing the Incarnation of Jesus: "God so loved us that for our sakes he, through whom time was made, was made in time. Older by eternity than the world itself, he became younger in age than many of his servants in the world. God, who made man, was made man. He was given existence by a mother whom he

brought into existence. He was carried in hands which he formed; he was nursed at breasts which he filled. He cried like a baby in the manger in speechless infancy—this Word without which human eloquence is speechless." Let us rejoice in a God who loves to use what's small and meek to accomplish great things.

Merry Christmas!

TODAY'S READINGS: Day: Isaiah 52:7-10; Hebrews 1:1-6; John 1:1-18 (16). *"Let all the angels of God worship him."*

Thursday, Dec 26, 2019

FEAST OF STEPHEN, FIRST MARTYR

Let the children lead the way

In religious art, Saint Stephen, first martyr and one of the first seven deacons in the church, is pictured as a very young man. He must have taken to the new Christian faith in a big way, because despite his youth he was already said to be filled with the Holy Spirit and a miracle worker. Look around our world today. Once again we find deeply committed young people, not only animating the church through events such as World Youth Day, but taking the lead on many of the most pressing issues of global concern, such as climate change. Lend an ear to what young people in your life are saying—you may find some ageless wisdom there!

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Matthew 10:17-22 (696). *"They could not withstand the wisdom and the spirit with which he spoke."*

Friday, Dec 27, 2019

FEAST OF JOHN, APOSTLE, EVANGELIST

Testify with your life

Sometimes a platoon of veterans will get together every five years, until their numbers dwindle to a few lone survivors. Or a group of college girlfriends will have an annual reunion—until one is left with no one else to reunite with. John the evangelist, a.k.a., the beloved disciple, was said to have outlived all the other apostles. Perhaps it felt lonely—or perhaps it drove him to spend every last day recounting and recording for posterity the incredible events that he witnessed firsthand. Keep your eyes open and pen at hand—God is at work in your own life and you are the living testament!

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 John 1:1-4; John 20:1a, 2-8 (697). *"We have seen it and testify to it."*

Saturday, Dec 28, 2019

FEAST OF THE HOLY INNOCENTS, MARTYRS

Children first

The Holy Innocents' only crime was that they were the same age as the baby Jesus. The local king, Herod, was a jealous man who had few scruples about killing people. When he heard that wise men from the east were en route to honor a newborn king, Herod was beside himself. He demanded that they tell him where he also could "honor" this baby king. When they ignored him, Herod did the unthinkable and ordered that all of Bethlehem's male babies and toddlers be put to death. Say a prayer today for the children of our world who have had their innocence robbed from them through war, grinding poverty, or abuse. Let their protection be our highest priority.

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 John 1:5—2:2; Matthew 2:13-18 (698). *"A cry was heard at Ramah, sobbing and loud lamentation: Rachel besuiling her children."*

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



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