

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 29, 2019 FEAST OF HOLY FAMILY



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

PARISH STAFF

Fr. Augustine Chumo Pastor
Fr.Augustine.Chumo@dor.org x109

Erika Linsdell
Parish Admin. Assistant
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Pastoral & Catechetical leader
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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—January 5, 2020 Epiphany of the Lord

Second collection—Building Maintenance

CMA APPEAL

Goal	\$57,152
Current status: 106 Donors Percentage 41.88%	\$23,934

APPRECIATION

On behalf of the parish community I would like to express our sincere appreciation to Joan and John McQueeney for leading the operations of the food pantry for the last three years. Their love and dedication to serving our community is greatly appreciated. The food pantry serves many people who are struggling to feed their families. It takes hard work, teamwork, diligence, compassion and patience to serve in this ministry. Joan and John are blessed to have these virtues.

We also want to thank all the food pantry volunteers who have supported the work of the food pantry with their time, providing transport, helping clients carry food to the parking area, donations, monetary and supplies needed for smooth operations. We can't thank you enough for all you do. To ONE and ALL: Thank you! May the joys of Christmas renew and strengthen the spirit of service and self-giving in service of God's people. May the good Lord bless you abundantly. Asante sana!

The Eucharist at Mass on Dec. 26th was for the intention of Catherine Bentkowski

YOUTH AND FAMILY CORNER

The Flight to Egypt

P D E B K C C N A Z A R E T H G E S I R
J R I E U E H U R G J M P Q A E G Y P T
I F O A L N U K N U A Y C L H P E S O J
K W H P R F U M D M P K I X E R E Q D T
P M R D H F A E K P F L K H C J Y R E E
V S G X M E A S R U E R T Z W M L V P S
F Q K W R J T R D E L P I G B D H U A T
A Y H D Y S K S J T N I P G V G E P R J
J N H X H C S W Y W N O U V H G R U T D
S K G A R U H K O I H Q O O I X O X E E
F E Y E G D V W A M D G I M Q L D X D N
L U D I L M X I H D A W Z E N V B D H R
Q K B G Y Z Z X Y N U L Q U H G W K U A
X L G A P O M J V R D P T C M Z O F W W
X Y P M D Y K R P P L U V O E L V X C V

Afraid
Angel
Departed
Dream
Egypt
Flee
Galilee
Herod
Joseph
Judea
Magi
Nazareth
Prophets
Rise
Warned

THE NEED TO KNOW

- The **Food Pantry** will be **CLOSED INDEFINITELY** due to environmental cleaning. We are working diligently to update the process.
- **Coffee Hours** are also postponed until the parish hall is environmentally cleaned.
- The **rest rooms** in the parish hall are currently safe to use.
- Small groups are able to meet in the Youth Room while the Parish Hall is being worked on. Contact the Parish Office.

FOOD PANTRY

We are pleased to introduce Denise Robinson and Ted Capogrossi as the new Managers of the Food Pantry, who will work as a team to continue the mission of the Pantry. We wish them well in their new endeavors and they will begin their new duties in January. They are currently working with the Food Bank in continuing the support to needy families through other locations as we are working to have the basement area cleaned and updated.

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.



2020 SANCTUARY LAMP

The Sanctuary Lamp for 2020 is available for Intentions. Please contact the Parish Office to schedule dates. A donation of \$20 is requested and the intentions run from Sunday-Saturday.

AREA EVENTS

Notre Dame High School, Grades 7-12, is hosting an **OPEN HOUSE** on **Tuesday, January 28, 2020** from **6:30-8pm** as part of Catholic Schools Week. Visitors can meet faculty, take a student-led tour, and hear presentations on admissions and financial aid. Busing from the Ithaca area is available for interested students daily to/from Notre Dame. The high school is located at 1400 Maple Avenue, Elmira.

The **Ithaca Loves Life** local **March For Life** will take place in Ithaca on **Friday, January 24th** beginning at **12:45 PM** from the steps of Immaculate Conception church. Save the date and join us!

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, December 29

8:30AM Phil Ruocco

from Dave & Corky Nazer

10:30AM For Parishioners

Monday, December 30

12:10PM Matt Peters

from Ann Herson & Family

Tuesday, December 31

7:00AM David Natali

from Pat Natali

Wednesday, January 1, 2020

9:00AM Elsie Boronkay

from the Bononkay Family

Thursday, January 2

12:10PM Irene & Tony Petito

from Anne & Mary Adesso

Friday, January 3

7:00AM Salvatore Feola

from the Mazzaccari & Tagliavento Families

Saturday, January 4

8:30AM Gary Jaynes

from Josephine Jaynes & Family

4:30PM For Parishioners

Sunday, January 5

8:30AM Molly Elmo

from Ann Herson

10:30AM Lucille Dannan

from Sandie Sutfin

THIS WEEK

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29

NO CHOIRS @ MASS

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31

NO PM VIGIL MASS

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1, 2020

NEW YEAR'S DAY—OFFICE CLOSED

SOLEMNITY OF MARY MASS AT 9:00AM

HAPPY★NEW★YEAR



FRIDAY, JANUARY 3

7:30A—EXPOSITION

SATURDAY, JANUARY 4

3:00P—HOLY HOUR ADORATION

SUNDAY, JANUARY 6

11:45A—HS YTH GRP-YR

2:30P—MS YTH GRP-YR

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

No other structure can replace the family. It is the center of our affection. The family is the first school, so to speak, which provides the central role in human formation and healthy growth.

The Feast of the Holy Family presents to us an ideal family for Christians. Is it right to say that The Holy Family is too ideal for the modern family? In many ways they were ordinary people who were constantly struggling to discern God's will in their lives. In spite of their struggles, they succeeded in making their family holy and happy.

We live in the most challenging times. The world is full of falsehood, errors, faithlessness, relativism, materialism, unhealthy competition, violence, poverty, drug abuse, broken families, and heightened political tensions; all of which have threatened the fabric of family life. What steps are you taking to nurture your family in the midst of these challenges? Do you take time to talk about God and the Gospel message? Do you encourage family prayer?

As we celebrate this feast, let's pray earnestly for our families and strive to make the love of Christ the heart of family life. May God bless our families and protect them from every evil.

PRAYER REQUESTS

- For a safe, peaceful and fruitful 2020
- For all Christian families, that they be missionaries of God's love
- For our diocese as we go through difficult times and for healing for all sexual abuse victims
- For those going through difficult times
- For our parishioners who have lost their loved ones in the recent past
- For the mentally ill and for their families
- For the safety of our young people in school
- For parishes struggling in any way; for peace and faith
- For our new parishioners who have just recently joined our faith community

SWAHILI CORNER:

Heri ya mwaka mpya! = Happy New year

Umeazimia kufanya nin mwaka huu? =

What have you resolved/planned to do this year?

Kufanya biddii kwa kila kitu = to put effort in everything

Asante sana, Amani kwenu!



We welcome into our faith family
Weston & Mason Teeter
Sons of Greg & Meghan Teeter
Baptized on December 24, 2019

*Christmas is not a time nor a season,
but a state of mind.
To cherish peace and goodwill,
to be plenteous in mercy,
is to have the real spirit of Christmas*



Christmas Flowers & Decorations in Loving Memory of...



DM OF THE GOLWAY FAMILY
DM OF THE EDSALL FAMILY
DM OF THE HARVILL FAMILY
DM OF THE LITTLE FAMILY
DM OF THE MERCY ASSOCIATES
FROM MARY EDSALL-GOLWAY

GLENN DARLING
DM OF DOUGLAS STONE, SR. FAMILY
FROM PAT DARLING

DECEASED MEMBERS OF THE VRABEL FAMILY
DECEASED MEMBERS OF THE BREITFUSS FAMILY
FROM GERTRUDE VRABEL & FAMILY

GEORGE GARY JAYNES AND
DESEASED MEMBERS OF THE FAMILY
FROM JOSEPHINE JAYNES & CHILDREN

WILLIAM B. KENNEDY, JR.
FROM JULIA KENNEDY & DAUGHTERS

LIVING AND DECEASED MEMBERS OF
THE MASSI AND MONTANARO FAMILIES
FROM THE MASSI FAMILY

ROBERT DEAN, VIRGINIA VORHIS
ESTHER MONROE, RAY ROBIDEAU
FROM JUDY M. DEAN

TONY CHIESA
MANFORD & ETHEL HART
JOSEPH & ERMINA CHIESA
FROM ROBERTA CHIESA

ROBERT T. CORNISH
RINALDO & GIOVANNA BORDONI
FROM LOUISE CORNISH

DM OF THE MASSARELLA FAMILY
DM OF THE SCIARRA FAMILY
FROM GERARDO & EMMA SCIARRA

DECEASED MEMBERS OF THE LINDELL
AND MEADS FAMILIES
FROM MICK & ERIKA LINDELL

DM OF THE DIGIACOMO & YENGO FAMILIES
FROM ANGELO & MARGARET DIGIACOMO

DM OF THE BEACH & FEHER FAMILIES
OLGA & PETER POTORTI
FROM BETH BEACH

EDWARD & ESTHER WILCZAK
EDWARD COLLINS
FROM DINAH COLLINS

LOVED ONES
FROM MARY ANDERSEN

THE STURM FAMILY
FROM A FRIEND

ALFRED NAZER
NANCY NAZER
FROM THE NAZER FAMILY

MARYLOU STEINER
FROM HOWARD STEINER

AARON & SETH CORINA
FROM THE FAMILY

IRENE & THOMPSON WALSH
THOMAS WALSH
FROM JOE & MARY CIASCHI

SALLY & JOSEPH O. CIASCHI
FROM JOE M, MARY & TOMMY CIASCHI

JOE R. CIASCHI AND LOUIS AUGUSTINE
FROM TOMMY CIASCHI

DM OF THE WARREN & DODD FAMILIES
FROM KATHY TEETER

THEODORE ANTHONY MATOSICH
ANTHONY THOMAS , VICKIE ANNE MATOSICH
ANGELO, MARY MARSELLA MASTERS
FROM LOUISE MATOSICH & MARY MARCANO

HERSON & WALPOLE FAMILIES
MOLLY ELMO
SUZANNE MILLER
ANGIE TORCHIA
FROM ANN HERSON

TOM HERSON
FROM HIS CHILDREN & GRANDCHILDREN

GLORIA A. SCALISE
I.B AND I.C. ALEXANDER
FROM RHONDA LATHWELL





LOUISE KACZOROWSKI
FROM CINDY & JASON CORINA

DM OF THE DALE & HANCY FAMILIES
FROM CLARA DALE

MARCELLA WERNER
ELWOOD & PHILOMENA WERNER
DECEASED MEMBERS OF THE
ANTHONY & MARY MAZZA FAMILY
ROSE M. MAZZA
FROM KAREN WERNER

LUIGI & NANCY PETRICOLA
AND DM OF THE FAMILY
FROM STEPHEN & NANCY PARROTT & FAMILY

FRANK & ANGELINA GRASSI
STEPHEN HUBBLE
FROM FILOMENA HUBBLE & FAMILY

DM OF THE AGUILAR & BOOTHROYD FAMILY
FROM THE BOOTHROYD FAMILY

DM OF WILLIAM T. CLARKE FAMILY
DM OF ANGELO PAOLANGELI FAMILY
GENEVIEVE GEISS
FROM FRANCIS & JEANNE PAOLANGELI

RALPH MAZZA
BETTY MAZZA
DONNA ROGERS
FROM LYN MAZZA

SUE & WING TANG
MICHELE TANG
JOE KOHM
FROM JEAN & KING TANG

DECEASED MEMBERS OF THE
ADESSO AND PARISILLA FAMILIES
FROM MARY & ANNE ADESSO

DECEASED MEMBERS OF THE
BILLERA AND KEBBA FAMILIES
FROM LOUIS & JEANNE BILLERA

LUCILLE DANNAN
FROM SANDIE SUTFIN

JAMES CLEARY
FROM JANET CLEARY

JOE & JOEY SALINO
FROM JEANNE SALINO



CATHERINE & KENNETH FAULS
FILOMENA & ERNEST PAOLANGELI
GEORGE & MAL BOSCO & FAMILY
ROGER PALOANGELI & FAMILY
SANTO GIGLIO
FROM RUDY & COOKIE PAOLANGELI

MICHAEL & ESTHER CHORDASH
THE CHORDASH FAMILY
JACK & MATILDA MCGRAW
FROM RICHARD CHORDASH

RUDOLPH & LOUISA MASSICCI
FROM CINDY MASSICCI

ARTHUR CICHETTI
FROM SIGRID CICHETTI & FAMILY

JOSEPH DAINO
FROM PEGGY FISHER & SKIP DAINO

DM OF ARCHIMEDE GUIDICE FAMILY
DM OF ALEXANDER & ANTONIA THOMAS FAMILY
MOLLY ELMO AND RUTH MORGAN
FROM LOURDES GIUDICE

THOMAS J. BURNS FAMILY
DENNIS MCGRAW FAMILY
FRANK J. MCGRAW FAMILY
FROM ELIZABETH BURNS

ROSEMARY & JOSEPH BRANIGAN
FROM WILLIAM & BARBARA ARMSTRONG

DAVID NATALI
FROM HIS LOVING WIFE, PAT NATALI

RUSSELL AUCOIN
JOAN ROBINSON
FROM THE ROBINSON FAMILY

GORDON MYER
FROM LAURIE MYER & FAMILY

DOUG, RICK & MAX ADDY
FROM CHARLOTTE ADDY

ARTHUR J. SALOTTI, JR.
FROM TARI SALOTTI-BLACK

CAROL MORUSTY MCGILL
ROGER & KEN MORUSTY
FROM JANET CLEARY & JEANNE SALINO



Wishing Everyone A Very Merry Christmas & Joyous New Year





JOSEPH KOHM
MICHELE TANG
TIKE & KATHY KOHM
FROM MARY KOHM

KATHLEEN CASSANITI
LOUISE & FRANK CASSANITI
FROM JOE & JACKIE CASSANITI



CHARLES & ELIZABETH MANNING FAMILY
JAMES B. FAULS FAMILY
BRITTON & RENA ANDERSON
THE WILLIAM C. ENNIS FAMILY
THE WELLS FAMILY
ANN ARGETSINGER
FROM JIM & BARB MANNING

JEFFREY JUNE, JEAN BISSINGER
AND JOHN & CLARA KIDNEY
FROM THEIR FAMILY

DM OF THE SCHWOEBLE & FOSTER FAMILY
RICHARD PEARSON AND BRIAN DONALDSON
FROM THE SCHWOEBLE FAMILY

DM OF THE OBER & DZUR FAMILIES
FROM THE OBER FAMILY

ELLIE ROMANOWSKI
FROM BOB ROMANOWSKI

JAROSLAV VANEK
FOR PEACE ON EARTH &
GOODWILL AMONG MEN
FROM WILDA VANEK

CAROLYN ROMANI
FROM PETER ROMANI

BILL BRAZO
KIM BRAZO MILLER
BRIAN MILLER
RODIE, FAFA & GRAMIE BELLE
FROM PAT BRAZO

THE VINCENZO RAPONI FAMILY
THE GENNARO RAPONI FAMILY
FROM MARGUERITE MCCARTNEY

JOHN HAMMOND
EDWARD & SUSAN CONLEY
FROM BRUCE & JOAN HUNTER & FAMILY
DOROTHY COOK & MARGARET JANOWSKY
FROM MATT, BETH, SOPHIE & JULIA JAN-OWSKY

HELEN & GEORGE MYKYTEN
PATRICIA & MERRILL GONYEA
TOMOTHY GONYEA
SCOTT STORRS
FROM THE GONYEA FAMILY

LOUIS & THERESA FLACCO
FROM PHIL & LORETTA GOSS

MOLLY & TERRY MURPHY
FROM JOHN MURPHY

ELSIE & JOHN BORONKAY
FROM THE BORONKAY FAMILY

LEVI WELLS
FROM HIS FAMILY

GABRIELLA ROMANO
FROM THE ROMANO FAMILY

EMIL AND ELIZABETH POLICAY
KENNETH HART
FROM MARYANN & PAUL HART

*God bless this new year
in which love overcomes
He is always with us
and unfolds great possibilities
all the best for the coming year
Merry Christmas & Happy New Year*



Wishing Everyone A Very Merry Christmas & Joyous New Year



Sunday, Dec 29, 2019

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH

A change in plans

Dreamers can't explain themselves. People ask: "How could you? Why did you?" And dreamers shrug and smile. They make the sacrifice, they take the risk, they think differently, they become someone unimaginable. Ask any artist or composer, star athlete or entrepreneur, priest or monk or missionary: How did you become what you are? They shrug and smile, because it's hard to tell someone who hasn't heard the voice themselves: I talk to angels, I listen to the universe, I close my eyes so I can see more clearly. Sit and pay attention to the holy silence.

TODAY'S READINGS: Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14; Colossians 3:12-21 or 3:12-17; Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23 (17). *"Rise, take the child and his mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I tell you."*

Monday, Dec 30, 2019

SIXTH DAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

Generation to generation

The gospel anticipates the New Year with a child's potential. After Simeon's harsh prediction of a sword piercing Mary's soul, Anna comforts. She directs the conversation back to thanking God. She has had time to prepare for her moment, so when it comes, she rises to the occasion. Pope Francis linked Anna and Simeon to grandparents. In a society that too often dismisses the elderly, grandparents still offer time and presence, just what children need most. Pray for and honor the elders in your own family and community. They carry a consoling message!

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 John 2:12-17; Luke 2:36-40 (203). *"The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom."*

Tuesday, Dec 31, 2019

MEMORIAL OF SYLVESTER I, POPE; SEVENTH DAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

Guard the pearl of great price

We know little of Sylvester I other than that his papacy lasted from 314 until his death in 335. A legend arose around the eighth century, however, based on a forged document known as the Donation of Constantine, that the emperor who famously converted to Christianity also transferred authority over Rome and the entire Western Roman Empire to Sylvester and future popes. While the document was later proven to be a fake, the papacy nonetheless got ensnared in power politics, luxury, and the corruption that comes with trying to rule an empire. As Dante put it in his *Divine Comedy*, "Ah Constantine, how much evil was born / not from your conversion, but from that donation / that the first wealthy pope received from you!" Don't practice your faith for worldly gain—God grants us riches money can't buy.

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 John 2:18-21; John 1:1-18 (204). *"He was in the world . . . but the world did not know him."*

Wednesday, Jan 01, 2020

OCTAVE DAY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD; SOLEMNITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD

Incarnation in all

The Octave of Christmas reminds us that all people everywhere share in the mystery of Incarnation, the communion of divinity and humanity, revealed in Jesus Christ and realized in all who are likewise born of women. We celebrate this mystery whenever we gather to eat and drink the sacred meal. Our task is to recognize

the divine presence in the least of those with whom we share this mystical communion, from the baby born in Bethlehem to the migrant standing at our wall. Resolve this New Year to lend a helping hand.

TODAY'S READINGS: Numbers 6:22-27; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:16-21 (18). *"So they went in haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the infant lying in the manger."*

Thursday, Jan 02, 2020

MEMORIAL OF BASIL THE GREAT AND GREGORY NAZIANZEN, BISHOPS, DOCTORS OF THE CHURCH

Let's be friends

"To the Ancients, friendship seemed the happiest and most fully human of all loves; the crown of life and the school of virtue. The modern world, in comparison, ignores it." When C.S. Lewis referred to the "Ancients" he might have had today's saints, Basil and Gregory Nazianzen, in mind. Instrumental in the formation of the Nicene Creed that the church recites each Sunday, these great bishops and doctors of the church can also be remembered simply for being two great and lasting friends. Let them remind us that deep and warm friendships enrich life in ways that accomplishments and honorifics, and even creeds, sublime as they may be, cannot replace.

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 John 2:22-28; John 1:19-28 (205). *"All who heard it were amazed by what had been told them by the shepherds."*

Friday, Jan 03, 2020

MEMORIAL OF THE MOST HOLY NAME OF JESUS

Called by name

The memorial of the Most Holy Name of Jesus reminds us of the power of names. We honor not just the person Jesus, but the name of Jesus. There is a certain intimacy in knowing a person's name. Think of our litanies, our prayers for people who are sick or who have died. Think of the genealogy we heard on Christmas Eve. When we name people, we acknowledge and see them. Think of the people you see regularly in your school, workplace, gym, grocery store, faith community. Remember to call them by name.

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 John 2:29—3:6; John 1:29-34 (206). *"John the Baptist saw Jesus coming toward him and said, 'Behold, the Lamb of God.'"*

Saturday, Jan 04, 2020

MEMORIAL OF ELIZABETH ANN SETON, RELIGIOUS

Be a trailblazer

Elizabeth Ann Seton (1774-1821) was born into a wealthy Episcopalian family. At 19, she married William Magee Seton with whom she had five children. For a brief time, it was a wonderful life, but soon William's business and health failed. Elizabeth was a poor widow and single mother by the age of 30. Inspired by Catholic friends who helped care for her dying husband, Elizabeth became Catholic in 1805. In the following years this first American-born saint established many firsts: the first religious community of women and the first Catholic school, with several more to follow. Elizabeth Ann Seton's deep faithfulness reminds us that nothing is impossible with God.

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 John 3:7-10; John 1:35-42 (207). *"They said to him, 'Rabbi (which means Teacher), where do you stay?' 'Come and see,' he answered."*

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



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Sunday, Jan 05, 2020

SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Shoot for radiance

There's not much we can do about last year—beyond remembering and, perhaps, repenting. But the new year is laid out before us smooth as glass and innocent as a baby. Why not aim higher, cast our thoughts in a more benevolent direction, and shoot for radiance? Isaiah leads the way, beckoning us to walk in celestial light. A certain group of Magi did just that, and it led them to the Christ child. Affix a star where you can see it regularly. Let it remind you to keep your attention on the child at the end of its rays.

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 60:1-6; Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6; Matthew 2:1-12 (20). *"Then you shall be radiant at what you see, your heart shall throb and overflow."*

Monday, Jan 06, 2020

MEMORIAL OF ANDRÉ BESSETTE, RELIGIOUS

Really see who's at the door

No matter how humble your work, sainthood is your call. The life of André (Alfred) Bessette (1845-1937) makes that clear. Rejected initially, Brother André was eventually accepted into the Congregation of Holy Cross. Physically frail and undereducated, he was given the work of doorkeeper at Montreal's Notre Dame College. He greeted and prayed with visitors, asking Saint Joseph to intercede for all who came seeking physical healing. In time, people came simply to pray with Brother André. When he died at age 91, more than a million mourners came to honor the Miracle Man of Montreal. Greet everyone today with love and compassion.

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 John 3:22—4:6; Matthew 4:12-17, 23-25 (212). *"He cured the people of every disease and illness."*

Tuesday, Jan 07, 2020

MEMORIAL OF RAYMOND OF PEÑAFORT, PRIEST

Good works live on

Today the church honors the brilliant Dominican Saint Raymond of Peñafort (d. 1275). At the behest of the pope, he organized decades of church decrees into the *Decretals of Gregory IX*, which made a major contribution to the development of Canon Law, and as head of the Dominicans, he wrote a congregational constitution that lasted nearly 700 years. Saint Raymond had no way of knowing his contributions would have such enduring impact. As you use your talents to help build the Kingdom for good, remember that your contributions are part of a lasting legacy.

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 John 4:7-10; Mark 6:34-44 (213). *"When Jesus saw the vast crowd, his heart was moved with pity for them, for they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things."*

Wednesday, Jan 08, 2020

CHRISTMAS WEEKDAY

Take a break with God

Need a vacation to recover from the holidays? We all know the feeling. As busy as most of us are—even in our leisure time—it's understandable when we fantasize about getting away from it all. That actually can be a good thing—when we do it to reconnect with God and recharge our spirit. Christianity has a long tradition that supports retreating from the world for prayer and reflection

—whether for a lifetime or just a weekend. Jesus himself often took time-outs from his ministry. It's break time!

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 John 4:11-18; Mark 6:45-52 (214). *"He went off to the mountain to pray."*

Thursday, Jan 09, 2020

CHRISTMAS WEEKDAY

The greatest of these is love

Last weekend, the church celebrated the Epiphany—revealing Christ to the larger world. This weekend, we observe the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, where Jesus is revealed once more, this time by divine proclamation: "This is my beloved son, in whom I am well pleased." While many of us slog through the chilly bleakness of January, Saint John the Evangelist—often called the Beloved Disciple—warms hearts by reminding us that we too are beloved. If today finds you struggling with post-holiday blues or the darkness of winter days, reach out in love to others, remembering that faith, hope, and love abide—but the greatest of these is love.

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 John 4:19—5:4; Luke 4:14-22a (215). *"If anyone says, 'I love God,' but hates his brother, he is a liar."*

Friday, Jan 10, 2020

CHRISTMAS WEEKDAY

Sit. Stand. Kneel. Repeat.

Why is there so much up and down and gesturing in Catholic rituals and prayers? When we pray, we pray not just with a part of us but with our whole being—mind, body, feelings, thoughts. The posture of the body can express what is on our hearts, and, when we do postures in common, we also express our unity with one another and the universal church. For example, though infrequently used, the posture of prostration involves lying face down on the ground. This is a symbol both of deep humility and of placing ourselves in the embrace of the God who made earth and heaven. What postures help you communicate with God?

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 John 5:5-13; Luke 5:12-16 (216). *"And when the leper saw Jesus, he fell prostrate."*

Saturday, Jan 11, 2020

CHRISTMAS WEEKDAY

Ours is a fluid faith

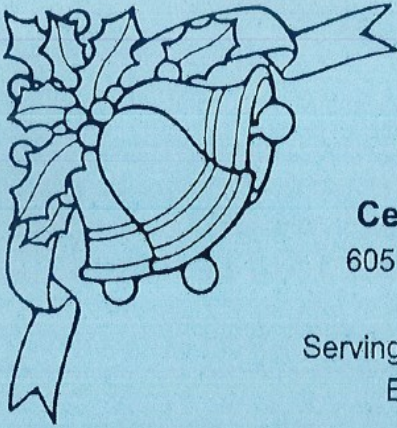
Today's gospel opens with both John and Jesus busy baptizing their followers. It's really no surprise that Baptism has been part of the Christian tradition from its earliest days. Even children understand the symbolism of water and its association with cleanliness and purity. From the River Jordan to today's baptismal font, the waters of Baptism and the deep desire for a clean, new life in Christ has a strong pull on us. The next time you place your hand in water, recall your own Baptism and pledge to follow John's simple directive in today's gospel: "He must increase; I must decrease."

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 John 5:14-21; John 3:22-30 (217). *"Jesus and his disciples went into the region of Judea, where he spent some time with them baptizing."*

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



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CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER 2019

"It is the right of every pregnant woman to give birth and the right of every child to be born."

"We thank Gnomon Copy for their generous Support and Great Service."

Dear Birthright Friends and Family,

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Last year I wrote our newsletter to go out at Thanksgiving time in order to help with my busy holiday schedule. However, this year I chose to wait as I wanted to write about our recent anniversary celebration.

On Saturday, November 16th, we celebrated 38 years of Birthright in Ithaca. We chose to make it a threefold event; to honor our beloved director of 35 years, Mary Camobreco, to celebrate 38 years of our mission with a luncheon, and to also use the time as a fundraiser; holding a 50/50 raffle and silent auction at the same time. It was truly a lovely, fun, and successful event.

94 People joined us to honor Mary Camobreco including her children. Fr. Tony Mugavaro who helped get Birthright of Ithaca started back in 1981 and our regional NYS Birthright director also joined us. Both had many beautiful words to say about Mary

and her devotion to our organization. She has been such an inspiration to all of us.

I would like to thank the efforts of Carolann Darling who initiated and was the primary person to get the ball rolling on this fundraising event. Without her we could not have pulled it off. It truly was a lovely event filled with many blessings. It was overwhelming to see the outpouring of love at this event. Thank you to all who came to help us celebrate.

In Peace,
Beth Janowsky

I thought I would share a couple of Birthright facts with you that I discovered when preparing to speak at the luncheon. Since Birthright opened its' doors on November 16, 1981 Birthright has had over 13,074 visitors to our office (there are two years I couldn't find stats for). We have given out 1,041 pregnancy tests. There have also been numerous home visits and phone calls, all in the effort to help women to choose life. I believe the numbers prove we

are effective in our endeavors to promote life giving options to our clients.

This year from November of '18 - October of '19 we have had 299 office visits, given out 292 packages of diapers, 45 containers of formula, 14 layettes and helped 5 women out with financial aid. We have received, 244 phone calls in our office. Though we have slow days, we never have slow months. We are blessed with donations of clothing, diapers, and formula from time to time. These items are greatly appreciated by our clients. .

This year has been full of blessing as we carry out our mission to assist women in crisis and unplanned pregnancies:

In January I was asked to speak by Ithaca Loves Life for the local March for Life. It was a privilege to speak to about 60 people regarding the mission of Birthright. The talk and march to Planned Parenthood was followed by a funeral reception put on by the Knights of Columbus. It is a beautiful thing to see so many people involved in preserving life.

In February we were blessed with a \$6,000 grant from the Triad Foundation. We are still hoping to use this grant to help us address the issue of moving to a more conducive space for our organization. We also received a Consistent Life Ethic Grant from the Rochester Diocese Catholic Charities in February.

In April, the Service Team from Immaculate Conception Church held a diaper and formula drive for us. We received 27 packages of diapers and 7 canisters of

formula. This was a huge blessing as diapers and formula are two of our biggest costs beyond our usual overhead (rent, internet service, etc...)

In May we held our annual Mother's Day Flower sale. This was another successful year and is a big help in offsetting our overhead costs. We are truly grateful to all who help out in the preparation that goes into this, and to all who support us through this event.

In June St.Catherine's of Siena Church held a Father's Day flower sale for us in which they raised and donated \$546 for our organization. We appreciate their role in supporting our organization.

Over the summer we had a high school student volunteering with us. She was a delightful volunteer, eager to help in any way she could, even sorting through 38 years of files with me! I put this here to let people know that this is an excellent way for high school students to put in service hours for their civic class or confirmation service requirement.

In October, three of the Birthright staff attended the NYS Birthright Conference in Albany. It was a great chance for me to meet other NYS directors and get an idea of how other Birthrights are operating. The three of us also had a chance to take part in some very informative workshops on working with Generations Y and Z. It is a different world than many of us grew up in, and the information presented was valuable to us.

Also, in October, Carolann Darling and I spoke at an Area Congregations Together

meeting to introduce Birthright to other churches that may not know of our services. There were about 12 denominations represented and they were all happy to hear of our mission. We left them with several brochures and I will be following up with them in the new year to see if they would like any more in depth information.

And of course, November brought our first ever luncheon event. A huge success that we hope to repeat every other year. Since this was a great success, Carolann Darling has agreed to help us out on a regular basis as a fundraiser coordinator, something we very much need if we are to secure a spot in a downstairs location.

I would like to take a moment to mention a few needs of Birthright at this time. You or someone you know may very well wish to help, so please spread the word. Birthright is in need of:

- A downstairs, downtown location (with at least 650 sq. ft.) is imperative!
- VOLUNTEERS are in great need!
- A newer updated computer (ours is very slow at about 13 years old or so)
- Always size 5 diapers
- Enfamil with Iron formula

And now, I just want to take a moment to say thank you for all the ways in which you help us, whether that be through donations of material items, monetary donations, or prayers. It is because God has put it on your heart to help support us. We could not do it without you.

We are praying that you all have a very Blessed, Merry Christmas and New Year. May God bless you all!

Will you join us at Birthright? Training is provided for all volunteers: WE NEED YOU. Will you help?

YES! I can offer time to Birthright:

- ☐ As an office volunteer
- ☐ Substitute (sit in with a trained volunteer)
- ☐ A place in my home for an expectant mother

YES! I am willing to offer:

- ☐ Used and new maternity clothing
- ☐ New and used baby clothes
- ☐ Washing donated clothes

YES! I can't give time, but I can help financially:

- ☐ Enclosed is a one time gift
- ☐ I want to contribute regularly
- ☐ Please contact me when special needs arise

Your Name

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