

CHRISTMAS

A Savior Is Born



Immaculate Conception Church

Christmas 2019

4671 Townline Road, Ransomville New York 14131 Telephone 716-731-4822

Immaculate Conception Church

Parish Staff:

Rev. James Bastian, Pastor (ext. 102)
Deacon Paul Stankiewicz, Dcn Emeritus
Mrs. Laurie Muth, Pastoral Associate (ext. 108)
Mrs. Mary Zastrow, Secretary (ext. 101)
Miss Karli Leggett, Bulletin (ext. 106)
Mr. Nick Drumsta, Custodian

Mass Schedule:

Christmas Eve: 4p.m. & 6p.m.

Christmas Day: 10a.m.

Saturdays 4:00 p.m.

Sundays 8:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m.

Monday, Thursday 9:00 a.m. in Chapel

Wednesday 6:30 p.m. in Church

Adoration: Adoration in Chapel every Friday
10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.



WISE MEN STILL SEEK HIM

Matthew 2:1-12



MASS INTENTIONS

Tuesday December 24 4:00 pm In memory of **Cindy LoTempio** req. by Finnerty Family
 In memory of **Matthew Marin** req. by Marin Family
 6:00 pm In memory of **Donna Klemp** req. by LaNasa Family
 Wednesday December 25 10:00 am In memory of **Walter & Jane Kelsch** req. by Daughter Donna



Merry Christmas!! And a Blessed and Holy New Year!!

On behalf of myself and the parish staff, we wish you all the best during these holy feast days.

This past year was rather difficult for the Church, and we have been praying intently for those harmed by the Church in any way. With a new apostolic administrator, Bishop Ed, and a new year, I anticipate healing in ways that can only come from our Lord's love and Divine Mercy.

Signs of Hope – In September I was reappointed as Pastor for another six years. Our parish has seen significant renovations to the interior of the Church, specifically painting and a new carpet. The bones of the structure (that which you don't see) have been updated, particularly the boilers, heating and air-conditioning units. And we will continue to update and refresh according to plan. Thanks to the many people that donated during the last five years to Upon this Rock. And thanks to the many vested parishioners that give of their time and talent to make sure Immaculate Conception Church shares the Gospel to our community. Several new ministries are highlighted in this bulletin.



"Oh, you must've been a beautiful baby,
 'Cause baby look at you now."

This song applies to John the Baptist, who grew into the greatest prophet.

It applies to Jesus, the innocent baby that became our Lord and Savior.

And we can sing (or hum or tut) it about our Church, as the Holy Spirit inspires the spread of the Gospel. St. Francis reminds us: "Preach the gospel always, if necessary use words."

My fellow parishioners, let us all play our part. Consecrate yourself to the Blessed Mother, follow the Spirit's lead, and let God be birthed through the gift that is YOU!

Blessings,

Father Jim

PARISH ACTIVITIES

OFFICE CLOSED DECEMBER 24TH-27TH

- SAT. Dec 28— Confession 3-3:45pm
- SUN. Dec 29— No Religious Ed.
- MON. Dec. 30— Mass 9:00am
- MON. Dec. 30— Narcotics Anonymous 7:30pm
- TUES. Dec. 31— 33 Days to Morning Glory begins
- WEDS. Jan. 1— Solemnity of Mary Mass 11:00am
- WEDS. Jan. 1— '33 Days' retreat video after Mass
- WEDS. Jan. 1— Office Closed
- THURS. Jan. 2— Office Closes at 11am— Staff Christmas Lunch
- FRI. Jan. 3— First Friday Devotion Mass 6:30pm
- SUN. Jan. 5— Religious Ed. Resumes 9:45-10:45am



SPAGHETTI DINNER

Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser
February 1st 5:30-9:00pm

Tickets \$8 adults, \$5 child 5-12

Under 5 free

Ticket sales begin January 11

Support our youth going to convention!

HOLY DAY MASS
 January 1st 11:00 am

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Tues.	December	24-	Isaiah 62:1-5; Psalm 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 [2a]; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Matthew 1:1-25
Wed.	December	25-	Isaiah 52:7-10; Psalm 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 [3c]; Hebrews 1:1-6; John 1:1-18
Thurs.	December	26-	Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17 [6]/Mt 10:17-22
Fri.	December	27-	1 John 1:1-4; Psalm 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12 [12]; John 20:1a, 2-8
Sat.	December	28-	1 John 1:5—2:2; Psalm 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8 [7]; Matthew 2:13-18
Sun.	December	29-	Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14; Psalm 128:1-2, 3, 4-5; Colossians 3:12-21; Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

DEMENTIA RESPITE CARE OFFERED AT IC

Did you know Immaculate Conception offers respite care for caregivers of persons living with Alzheimer's disease or a form of dementia?



Trained volunteers will provide one-on-one, supervised activities including games, crafts, pet therapy, gentle exercise, music/singing and lunch for your loved one while caregivers enjoy a block of time all to themselves! This program is being offered *free of charge* to the community and is available the **second Thursday of the month from 10am to 2pm**. Anyone interested in volunteering in this ministry should contact Laurie in the parish office.

"Dear Father and parishioners, yesterday my husband Phil attended his first respite. The care and kindness you ladies showed not only to your guests but the families was also awesome. He talked about it the whole way home and last night, and wants to come back. I can never thank you enough for your kindness. You are all truly an answer to my prayers, our guardian angels. God bless you all, Karen P. Ps: see you next month!" -

HOMELESS SHELTER MEAL MINISTRY

Parishioners from Immaculate Conception volunteer at Lockport Cares Homeless Shelter. The shelter is in need of more meal volunteers to cover the following dates in January and February. You may choose to volunteer independently or connect with a team from Immaculate Conception.

January: 6, 11, 12, 22, 25, 27

February: 2, 3, 6, 11, 16, 17, 18, 22

The homeless shelter provides emergency shelter, compassionate care, and material needs to those in need. Immaculate Conception volunteers should prepare food for approximately 12 people. To sign up or for more information, email Julie Costello at Lockport Cares at julcos50@gmail.com or visit the Lockport Cares website.



SUBSTANCE ABUSE MINISTRY

Are you suffering from or affected by addiction? We offer support and resources to offer hope, healing, and reconciliation to all members of the "Whole Body of Christ" that are suffering from addiction. You are welcome here! You are safe here! Every Monday from 7:30pm-9:30pm there is a Narcotics Anonymous meeting here at Immaculate Conception in the Father Cronin room. Every second Thursday of the month there is an Al-Anon meeting in the Father Nelson Baker room at 7:00pm. We pray for your hope and healing!

OUTREACH HERE TO HELP!

Our Outreach volunteers are available to transport parishioners to doctor appointments, visit parishioners in their homes and nursing homes, and bring them the Eucharist. If you or a loved one would benefit from our Outreach program or would like to be volunteer, please contact the parish office.

A MESSAGE FROM BISHOP EDWARD SCHARFENBERGER



My Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

More than any other, Mary, the Mother of Christ, reminds us of the possibilities that await us when we open ourselves to God and allow Him to reveal His will and unconditional love through us. Mary found in herself the capacity to say “yes” when faced with unreasonable and daunting circumstances - “Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” (Lk 1:38). What better way to celebrate this Season of Christmas and prepare for the New Year upon us than to participate in an Act of Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary!

A number of years ago, shortly after I became bishop of the Diocese of Albany, I experienced a life-changing grace through this Act of Consecration, first introduced by St. Louis de Montfort. The guide I used in participating in this daily commitment was an updated version of St. Louis de Montfort’s classic book - True Devotion to Mary - developed and adapted for our times by Fr. Michael Gaitley, MIC and titled, *33 Days to Morning Glory*. It’s an easy-to-follow daily reflection on spiritual themes and the examples and words of holy men and women who have led others – and been led themselves – to Christ through His Mother, Mary.

It is my hope as your temporary pastor here in the Diocese of Buffalo that you will take full advantage of this spiritually enriching opportunity - and invite others who may also be interested - in reflecting on the Mother of God beginning on **Tuesday, December 31, 2019**. At the end of these thirty-three days of Consecration, I hope you will then join in a special culminating **celebration at your parish Sunday Masses on February 2, 2020**. You’ll be hearing more about this in the coming days.

An excellent retreat master, Fr. Michael leads us step-by-step through the Act of Consecration in his very personal and readable book. We have arranged for *33 Days to Morning Glory* to also be available in magazine form at your local parish.

I look forward to learning from your experience of this unique encounter with this act of abandonment to God’s great mercy. My prayer is that this Act of Consecration will serve to deepen your own journey of faith, enrich the lives those with whom you share it daily, and lead to a period of true renewal for our entire Diocese. I know from my own experience that by committing our hearts and minds to Mary and her example, we enter through a sacred door to the very heart of Jesus, who is always and forever the fulfillment of our own hearts’ deepest desires.

Lovingly in Christ, Bishop Edward B Scharfenberger , Apostolic Administrator

33 DAYS TO MORNING GLORY CONSECRATION

Begins December 31st



Note: All those participating are invited to stay a few minutes after the Holy Day Mass on January 1st for an optional introduction about the retreat.

3 Ways to participate at Immaculate Conception:

1. Participate at home on your own by reading and reflecting on the daily readings provided.
2. Deepen your experience by watching the videos of Fr. Michael Gaitley available to you free on FORMED.org
 - Go to FORMED.org to register. Enter parish code X7RQGP.
3. Join with other parishioners to watch the video together followed by small group coffee and conversation .
 - After Wednesday evening Mass
 - After Thursday morning Mass. Mass will be in church.